

Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning – Paper 9

Beginner time limit: 30 minutes
Intermediate time limit: 25 minutes
Expert time limit: 20 minutes

Don't just *do* these questions: **learn everything you can from them**, using the solution pages which follow (**pages 11-24**). The key techniques are explained there in detail.

Remember that you will never know every word in English. The people who do best in verbal reasoning are those who can deal skilfully with *unfamiliar* words.

Rather than trying to memorise each new word and every kind of picture pattern, focus on improving **how you think logically about the questions**.

No single 11 Plus Lifeline paper will contain every possible kind of reasoning question. However, once you have completed a number of these papers, you will be very well prepared for most of the question styles which are likely to appear in any 11-plus exam.

Practise **skipping and circling**: if a question seems likely to take time, skip it, circle the question number, and come back to it when you have done the rest.

Write the missing letters in each gap. The alphabet has been provided for reference.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Example:

Q. DF is to EG as RT is to SU

1. HL is to JO as AE is to _____ .
 2. TN is to PQ as FG is to _____ .
 3. MP is to JL as QO is to _____ .
 4. RS is to LE as NO is to _____ .
 5. KP is to QT as FH is to _____ .
-

If you combine a word in the first group (which always goes first) with a word in the second group, you can make a new word. Underline the correct word from each group.

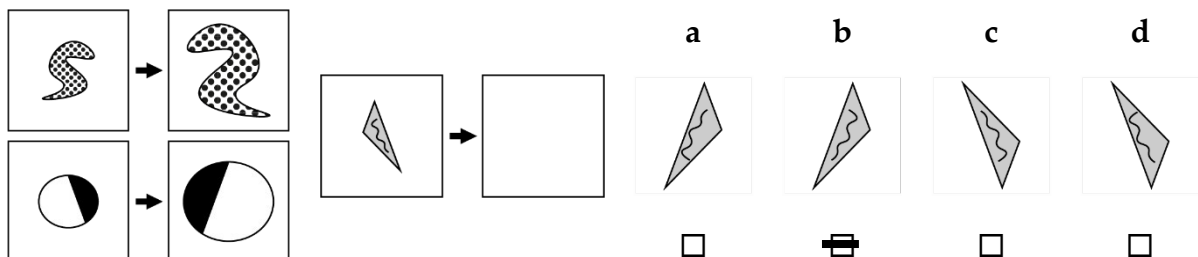
Example:

Q. (shop, blaze, send) (err, dent, ping)

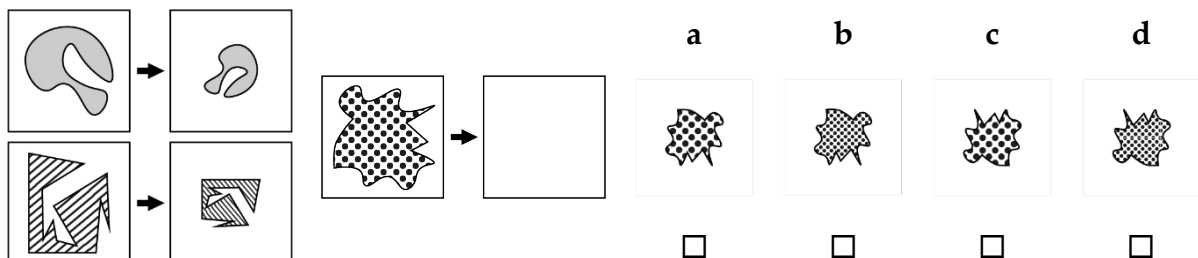
6. (is, be, in) (cause, effect, face)
7. (fire, water, earth) (swim, fly, hover)
8. (by, for, with) (sign, shoot, pass)
9. (wit, humour, joy) (full, some, her)
10. (truck, bike, car) (gram, brace, ton)

The two figures on the left have been changed in a particular way. Choose the figure on the right which best completes the third change, by following the same process.

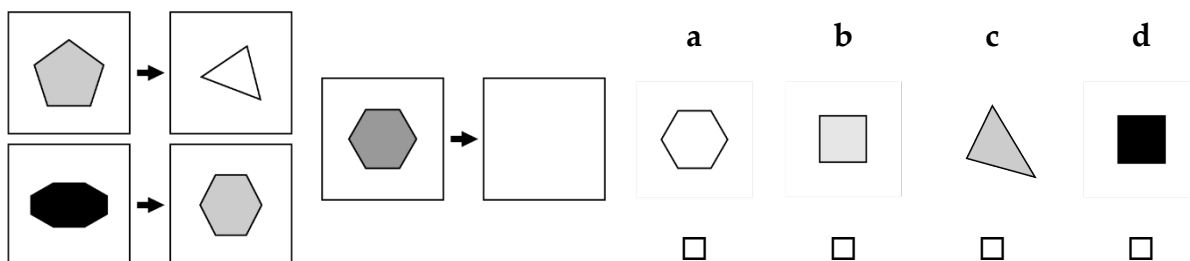
Example:



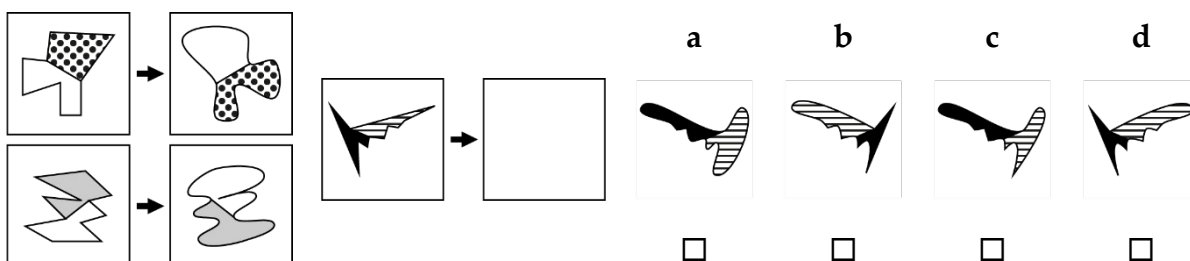
11.



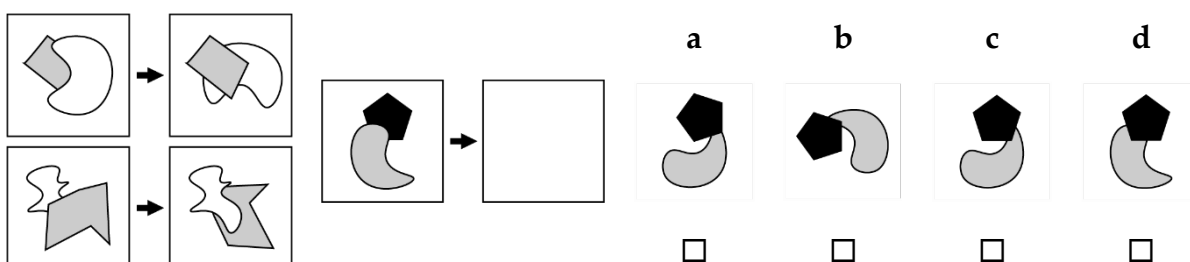
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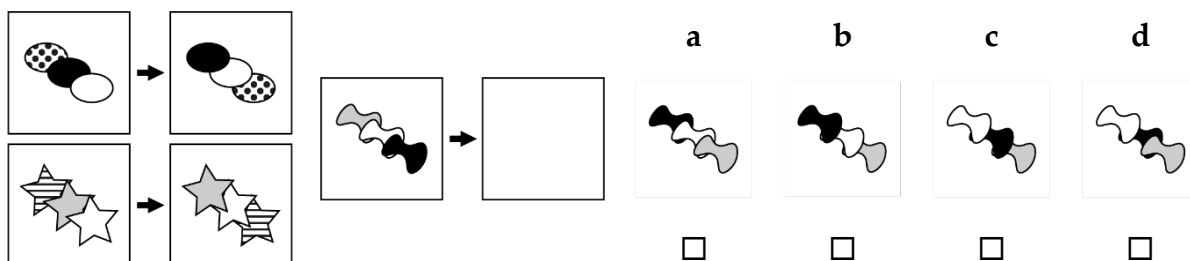
13.



14.



15.



Underline the word on the right which is closest to having an opposite meaning to the word on the left.

Example:

Q. close distant near proximate awkward

16. accidental problematic change think deliberate

17. antique furniture kitchenware modern ancient

18. somnolent many alert sleepy widespread

19. hirsute bald bold banned best

20. imitation copy authentic replication default

Cross out the word which does not belong with the other three. The other three words may not have exactly the same meaning as each other.

Example:

Q. hasten rush ~~delay~~ hurry

21. flower plant creature tree

22. yawn snort burp cough

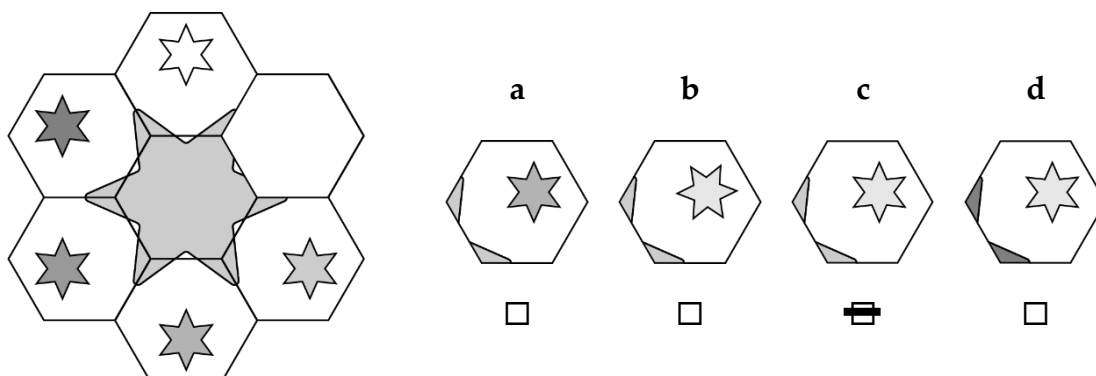
23. liveliness power current voltage

24. gloomy lugubrious phlegmatic depressive

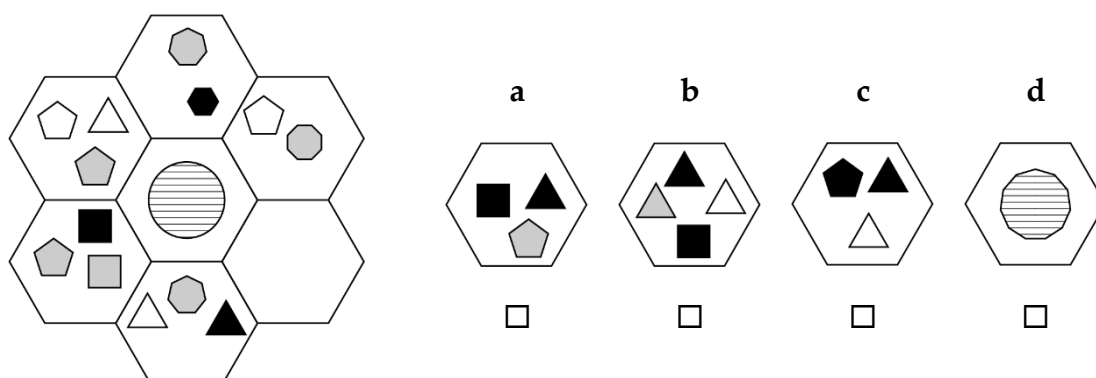
25. resigned satisfied contented happy

Choose the hexagon on the right which goes best in the empty space on the left.

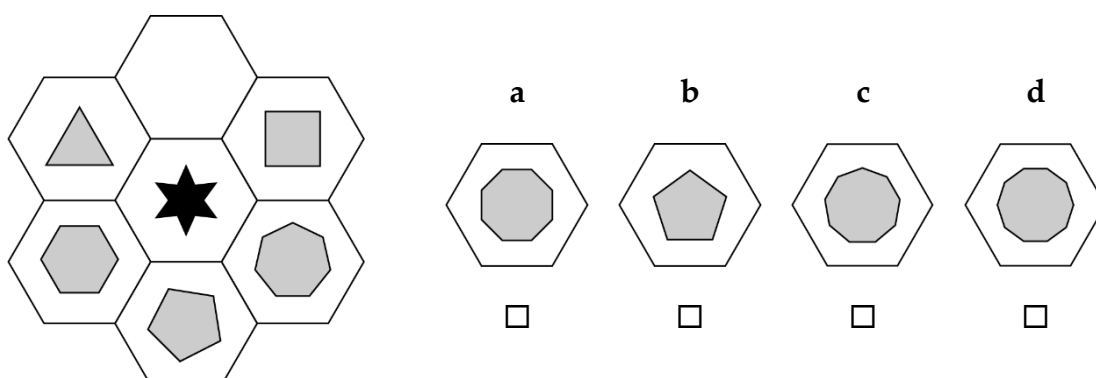
Example:



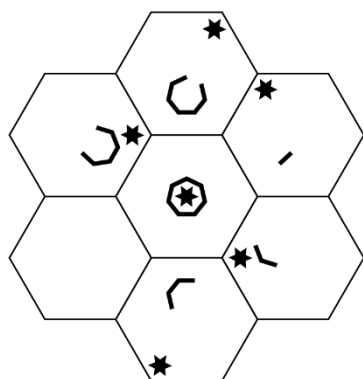
26.



27.



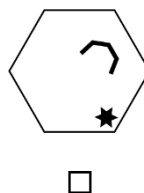
28.



a



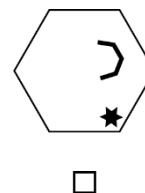
b



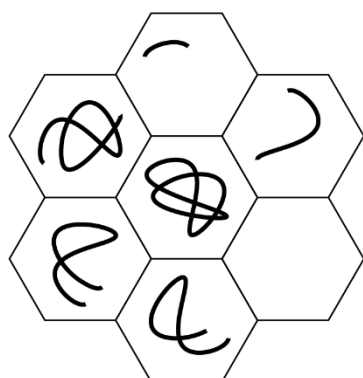
c



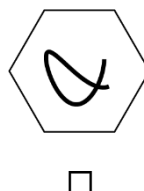
d



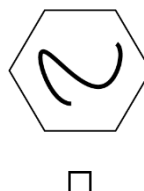
29.



a



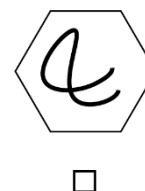
b



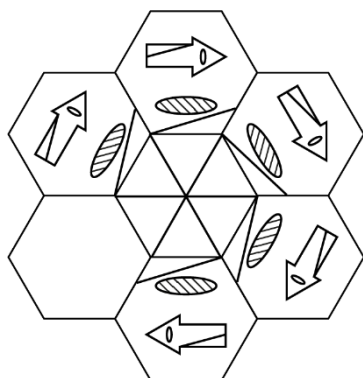
c



d



30.



a



b



c



d



Fill in the gaps so that the word on the right has the same (or almost the same) meaning as the word on the left.

Example:

Q. rest

repose

31. unimportant

__r__v__l

32. enact _xe_ _t_
33. excellent _h_n_ _n_
34. gain _cq_ _e
35. satisfactory _d_q_ _ _

In order for each of these sentences to make sense, two words need to be swapped round. Underline them.

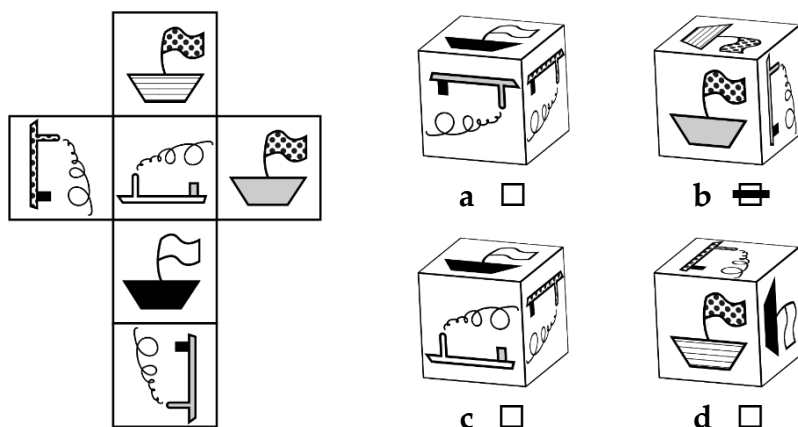
Example:

Q. The mat cat is sitting on the fat.

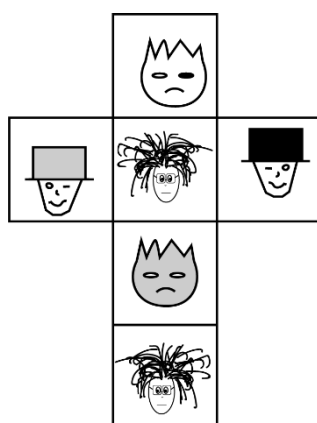
36. What hours will it be in two time?
37. The leader very running is smoothly.
38. Once upon a time, a castle troll lived in a mighty beautiful.
39. I mean believe that you really don't what you say.
40. It is getting room hot in this little very.

Which of the four cubes can be made from the net?

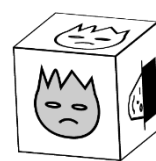
Example:



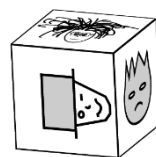
41.



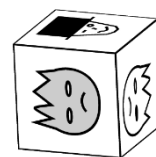
a ☐



b ☐

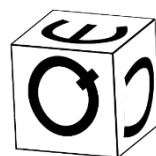
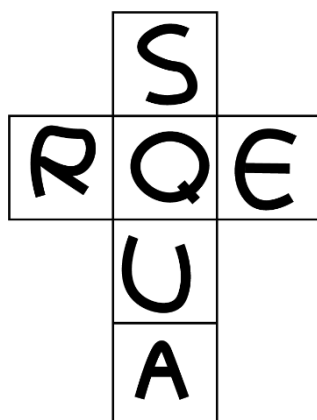


c ☐

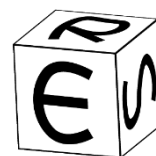


d ☐

42.



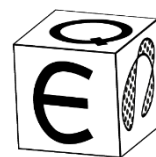
a ☐



b ☐

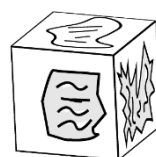
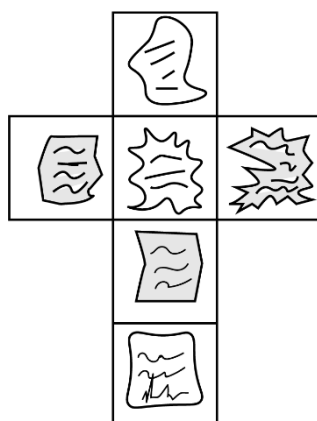


c ☐

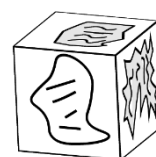


d ☐

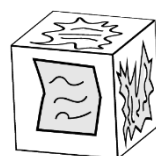
43.



a ☐



b ☐

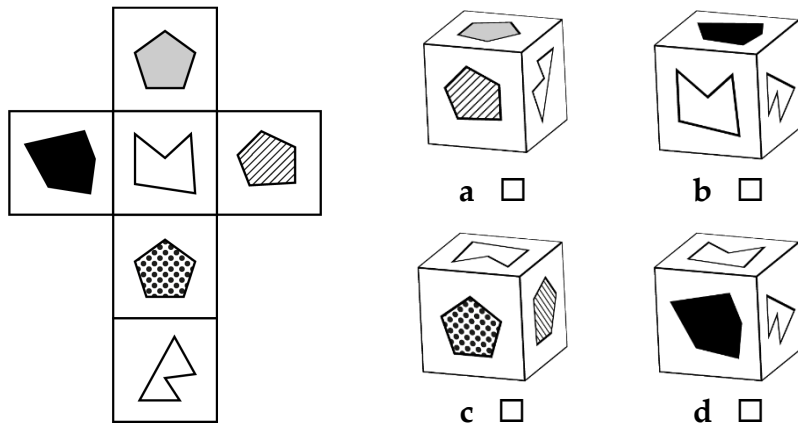


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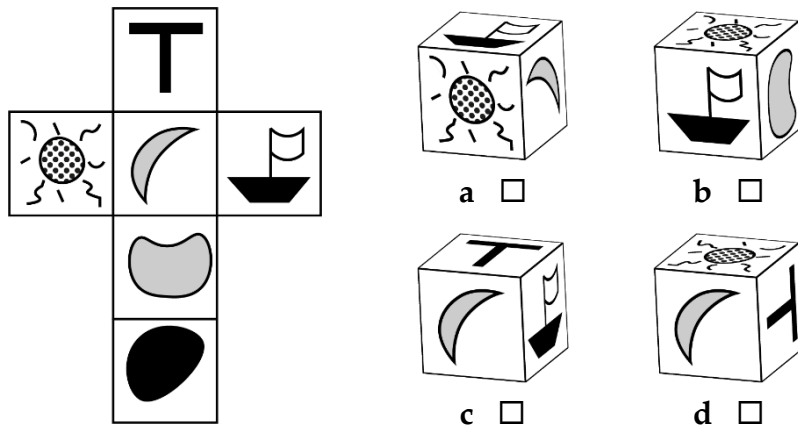


d ☐

44.



45.



Two words in each sentence have had their letters jumbled up. Rearrange them so that the sentence makes good sense.

Example:

Q. I PEXTEC expect complete DINBECOE obedience.

46. PIRAL _____ is the cruellest TMHON _____ .
47. REKCCTI _____ is more popular in this UCNRYRTO _____ than baseball.
48. Do you have a SITUES _____ that I could use to PWIE _____ my nose?
49. The rain is GIPTPAN _____ on the YALCONB _____ .

50. England LARYER _____ do well in LATRINAINTONE
_____ football competitions.

TOTAL MARKS: 50

Solutions

You will find a dictionary useful as you review your answers.

Write the missing letters in each gap. The alphabet has been provided for reference.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1. HL is to JO as AE is to CH.

The crucial thing is to look at each letter in the code **separately**. Don't try to work out what happens to HL: work out what happens to H, and *then* think about L.

In this case, H becomes J through counting two steps to the right. Apply this to A, and you get C.

L becomes O through counting three steps right. Apply this to E and get H.

2. TN is to PQ as FG is to BJ.

T to P means counting backwards 4. Apply this rule to F and get B.

N to Q means counting forwards three.

3. MP is to JL as QO is to NK.

Left-hand letters: Count backwards 3.

Right-hand letters: Count backwards 4.

4. RS is to LE as NO is to HA.

Left-hand letters: Count backwards 6.

Right-hand letters: Count backwards 14.

5. KP is to QT as FH is to LL.

Left-hand letters: Count forwards 6.

Right-hand letters: Count forwards 4.

If you combine a word in the first group (which always goes first) with a word in the second group, you can make a new word. Underline the correct word from each group.

6. (is, be, in) (cause, effect, face)

As I've discussed in previous reasoning papers, the important think with this style of question is to be systematic.

Unless the answer springs out at first glance, work through the options: "iscause", "iseffect", "isface", then words starting with "be", and so on – until you hit on the answer.

If you don't know any of the words, choose the one which is most plausible. An educated guess is better than an entirely random one.

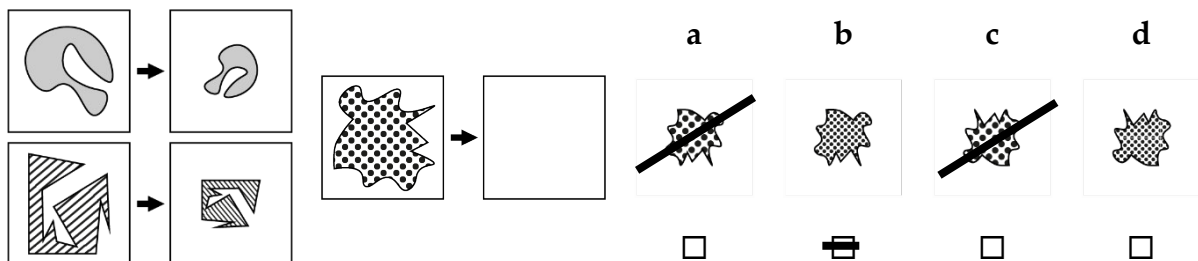
7. (fire, water, earth) (swim, fly, hover)
8. (by, for, with) (sign, shoot, pass)
9. (wit, humour, joy) (full, some, her)

Look out for situations where the sound may be unexpected. If you are looking for the sound "wit", you might not notice the word "wither", which has a soft "th" sound.

10. (truck, bike, car) (gram, brace, ton)

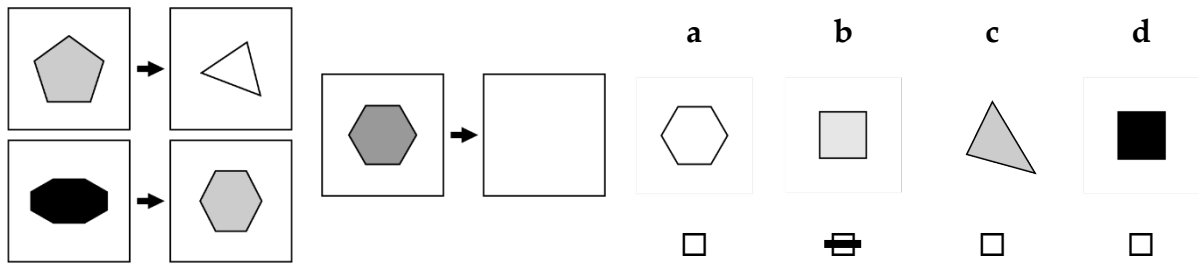
The two figures on the left have been changed in a particular way. Choose the figure on the right which best completes the third change, by following the same process.

11.



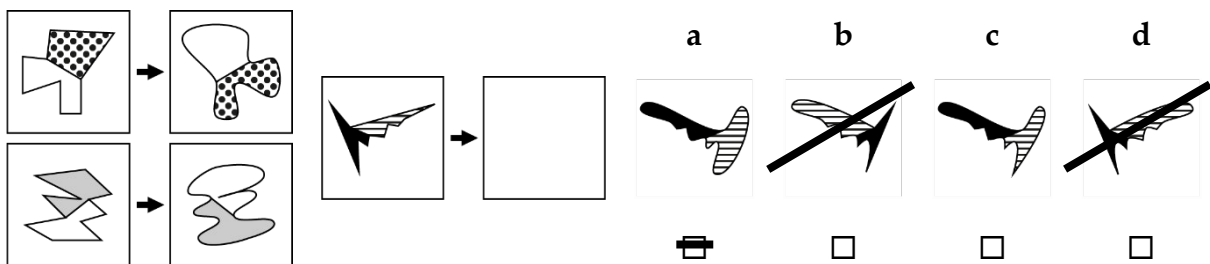
The left-hand figure is shrunk (including its pattern) and rotated 90° clockwise.

12.



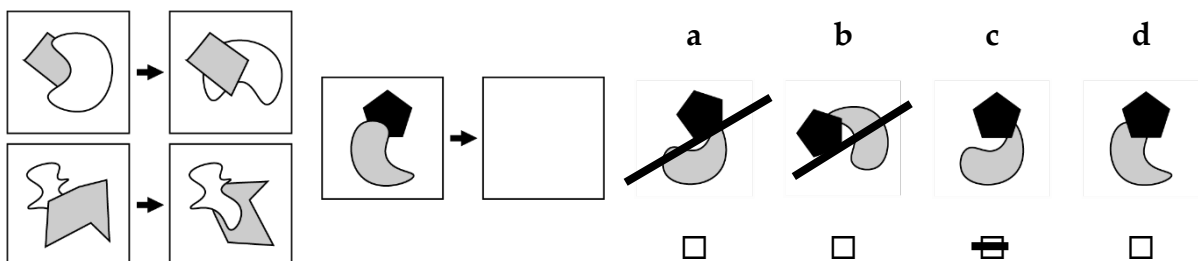
The figure loses two sides and becomes paler.

13.



The figure reflects in a vertical axis; its corners are rounded/smoothed; its two colours/patterns swap.

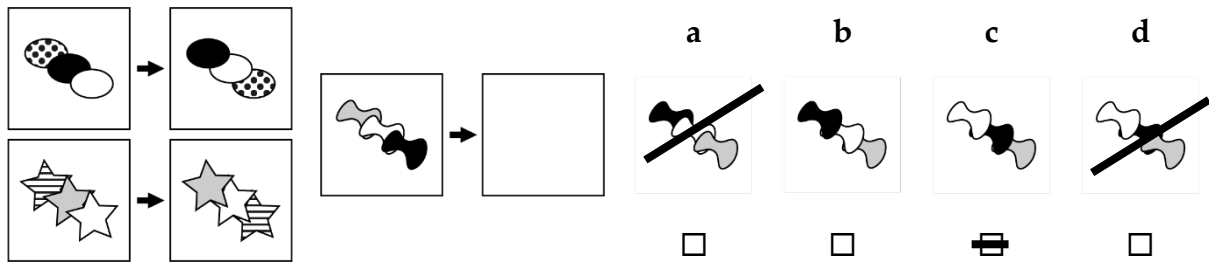
14.



The shape at the back comes to the front, while the larger shape rotates anticlockwise through 90°.

I started by eliminating those choices in which the pentagon has rotated. I then looked for the correct rotation of the larger shape.

15.



First look at the order of stacking and how it changes.

Then look at how the patterns move around – for instance, the middle colour moves to the top-left.

(Of course, you could reverse these steps.)

Underline the word on the right which is closest to having an opposite meaning to the word on the left.

16. **accidental** problematic change think deliberate

Notice the word “think” in the options. This is there to trick you into reading the next word, “deliberate”, in the sense (and with the pronunciation) of “I had to deliberate over the problem for some time”.

17. **antique** furniture kitchenware modern ancient

18. **somnolent** many alert sleepy widespread

19. **hirsute** bald bold banned best

20. **imitation** copy authentic replication default

Cross out the word which does not belong with the other three. The other three words may not have exactly the same meaning as each other.

21. flower plant ~~creature~~ tree

Some might argue that “plant”, “creature” and “tree” describe whole things, whereas “flower” describes part of a thing.

However, the word “flower” also has the common English meaning of “a small flowering plant”: it does not only describe the petalled flower itself, perhaps unless it is used by a botanist.

22. yawn ~~snort~~ burp cough

The other sounds are typically associated with the mouth, whereas a “snort” is predominantly nasal.

23. liveliness power current voltage

The other terms are used in electronics.

24. gloomy lugubrious ~~phlegmatic~~ depressive

“Phlegmatic” means “calm”, but doesn’t imply a depressed mood. A phlegmatic person takes things in their stride, and might well be happy about this.

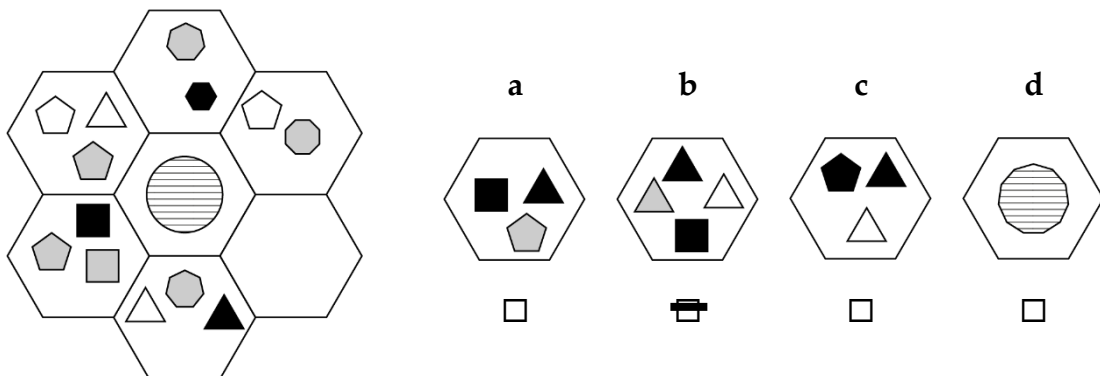
25. ~~resigned~~ satisfied contented happy

All these words suggest a willingness to put up with the world as it is, rather than trying to change it.

However, “satisfied” and “contented” have positive connotations, as of course does “happy”, whereas “resigned” implies that you are accepting things *despite not being happy with them*.

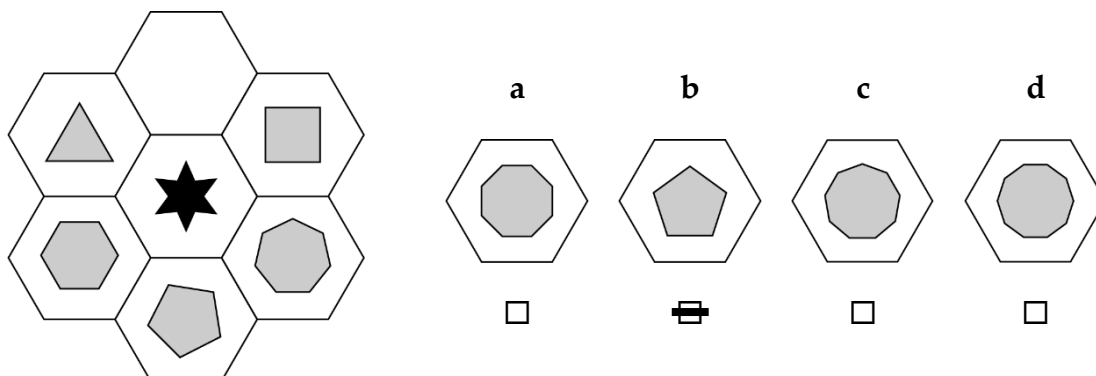
Choose the hexagon on the right which goes best in the empty space on the left.

26.



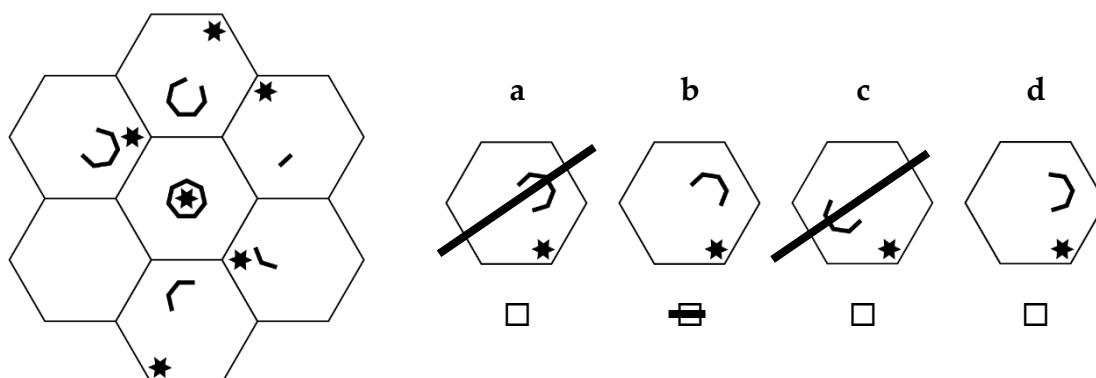
Each outer hexagon contains various shapes. The total of their sides is always 13.

27.



This is similar to the last one. This time, two opposite hexagons have shapes whose sides add up to 10.

28.

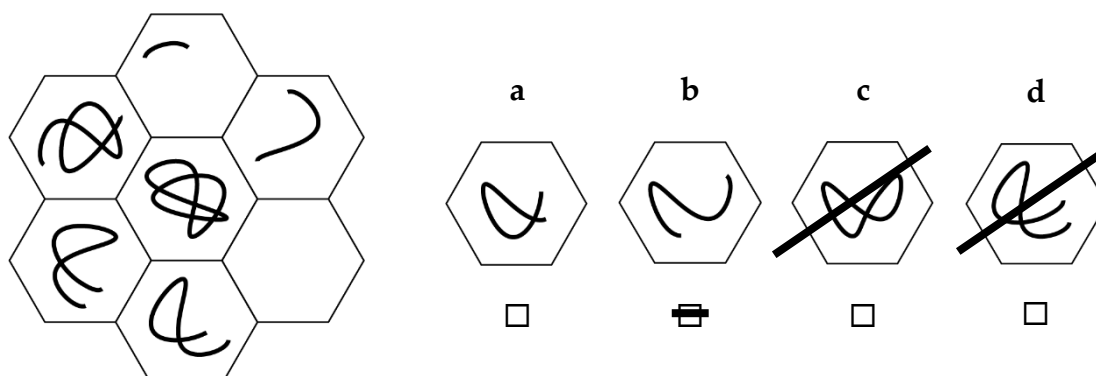


An octagon is formed one side at a time, as we move clockwise round the outer hexagons.

In the missing hexagon, four sides of the octagon will have been completed.

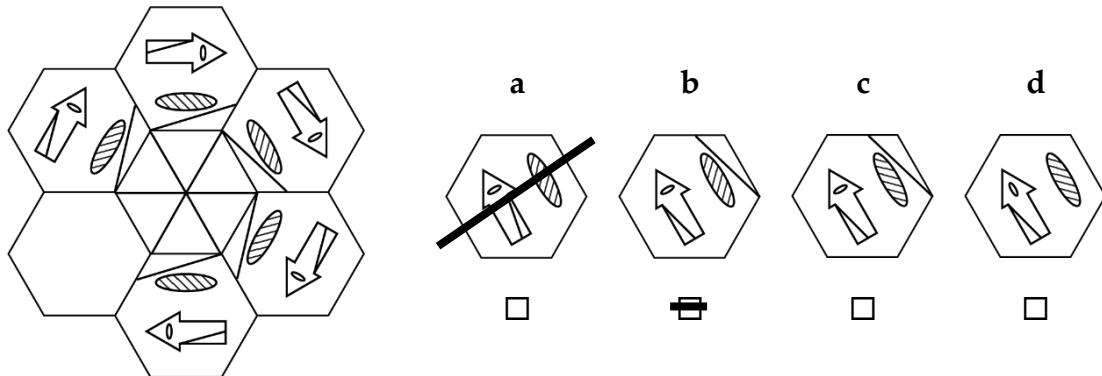
Adding one side and rotating the part-finished octagon by a sixth, only **b** is possible.

29.



An extra section of continuous curved line is added at each stage as we move clockwise, and the figure itself is rotated clockwise by a sixth each time.

30.



Look at the direction of shading in the lozenge shape!

Fill in the gaps so that the word on the right has the same (or almost the same) meaning as the word on the left.

31. unimportant trivial

32. enact execute

32 is not at all obvious. If you get stuck, don't sit and stare at the question: circle the question number and move on!

33. excellent phenomenal

The second letter, "h", should be a clue. Ask yourself which letters might go before it. Yes, "s" and "t" are obvious possibilities, but it's important to remember "p" as well.

34. gain acquire

35. satisfactory adequate

In order for each of these sentences to make sense, two words need to be swapped round. Underline them.

36. What hours will it be in two time?

What time will it be in two hours?

37. The leader very running is smoothly.

The leader is running very smoothly. [This might refer to the leader in a race.]

38. Once upon a time, a castle troll lived in a mighty beautiful.

Once upon a time, a beautiful troll lived in a mighty castle.

39. I mean believe that you really don't what you say.

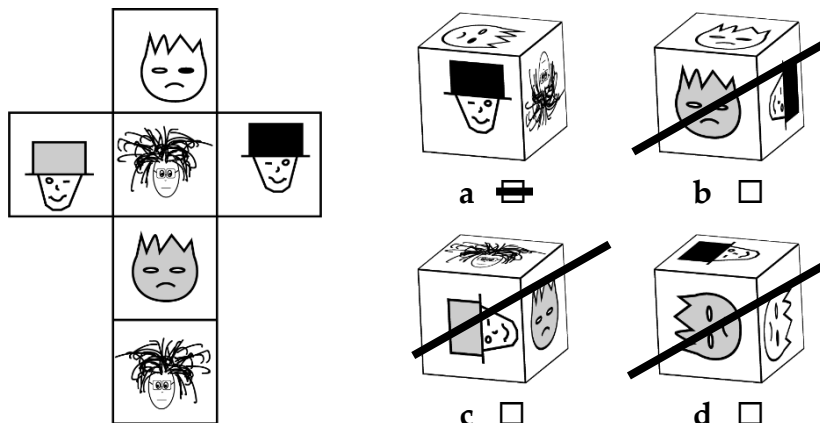
I don't believe that you really mean what you say.

40. It is getting room hot in this little very.

It is getting very hot in this little room.

Which of the four cubes can be made from the net?

41.

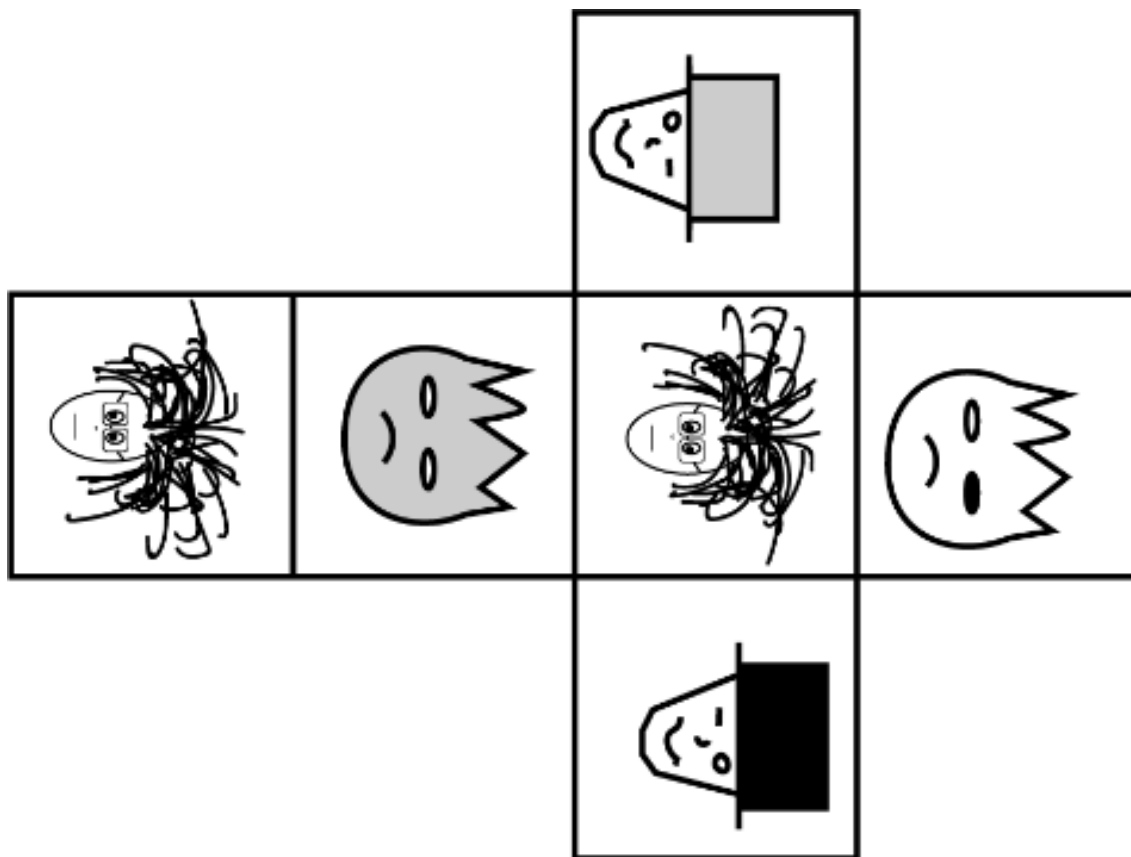


For detailed advice about how to answer cube questions, see the solutions to Reasoning Paper 1.

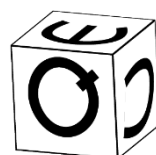
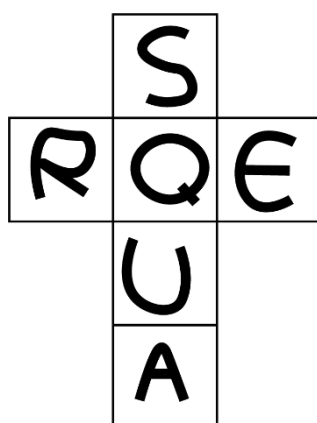
Elimination is likely to be the best approach:

- **b** has the wrong picture above the grumpy grey face.
- **c** has the crazy hair the wrong way up.
- **d** has everything the wrong way up or in the wrong place!

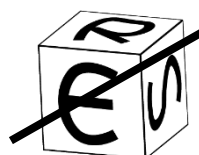
Below is a large version of the cube to cut out and fold, so you can experiment for yourself!



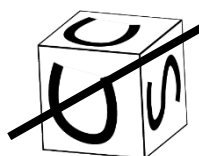
42.



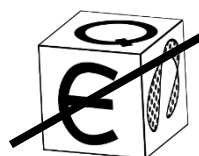
a ☐



b ☐



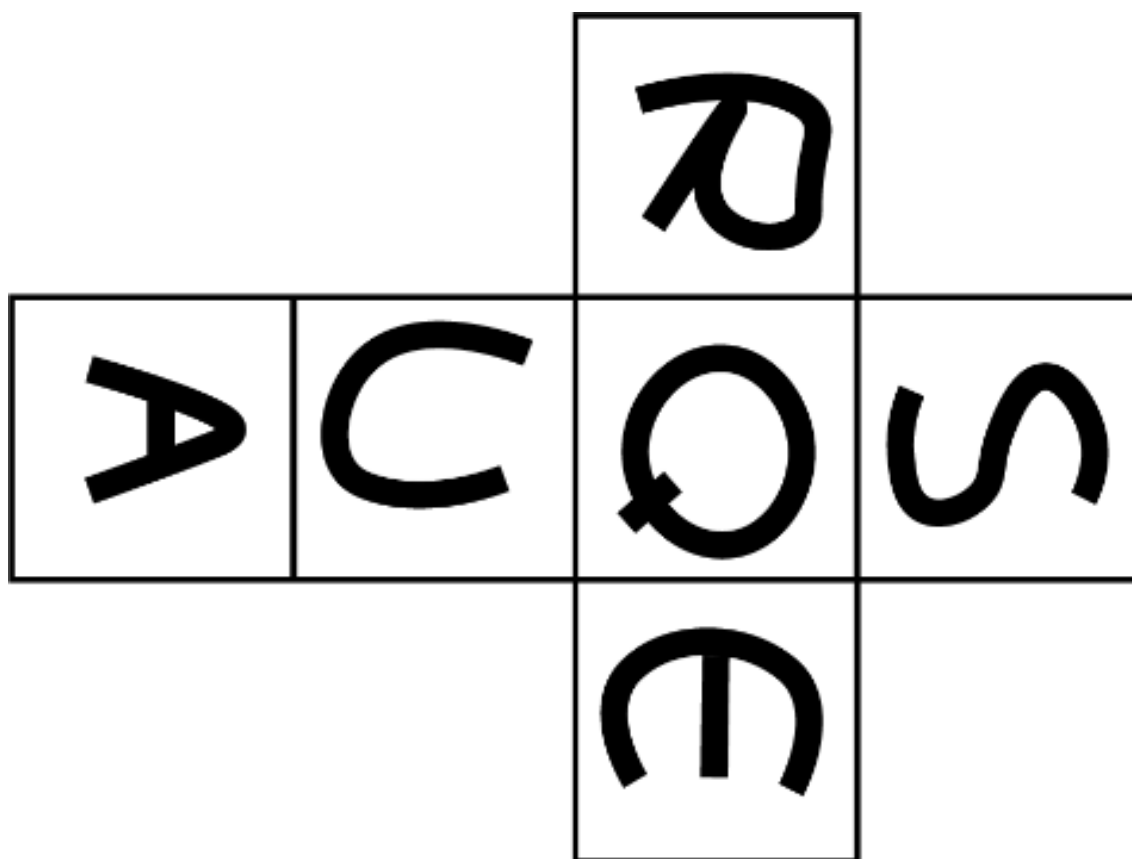
c ☐



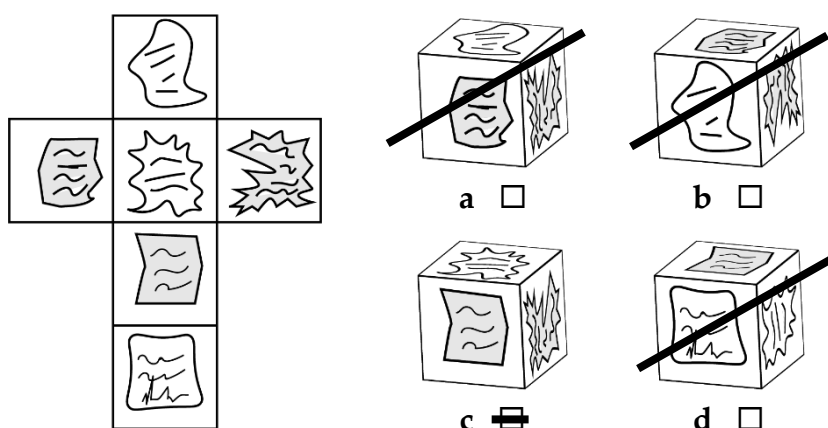
d ☐

This is likely to be a little easier, because several options are clearly wrong, and because each face of the cube is very different from the others.

Don't assume that the same option can't be the answer to consecutive questions. Judge each one on its merits.

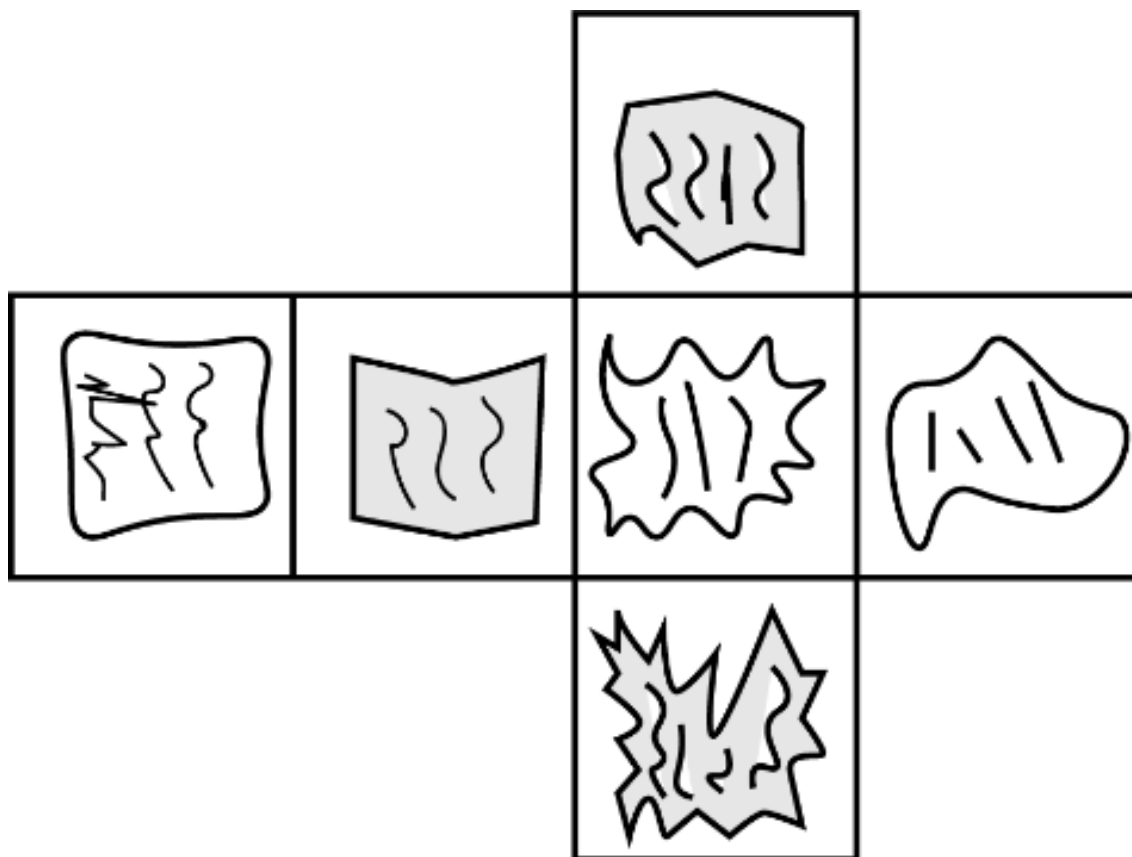


43.

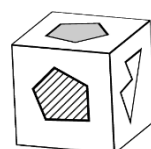
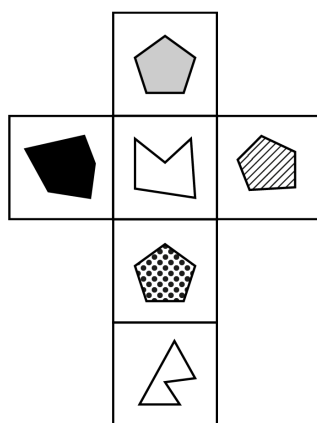


This is a little trickier, but there are still plenty of reasons for ruling out the incorrect answers.

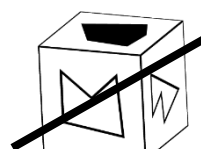
Notice, for example, that the top of **b** is wrong: it should be the bottom face in the T which folds to meet the top one.



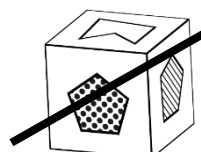
44.



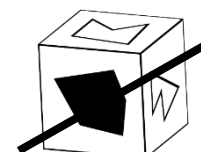
a ☒



b ☐



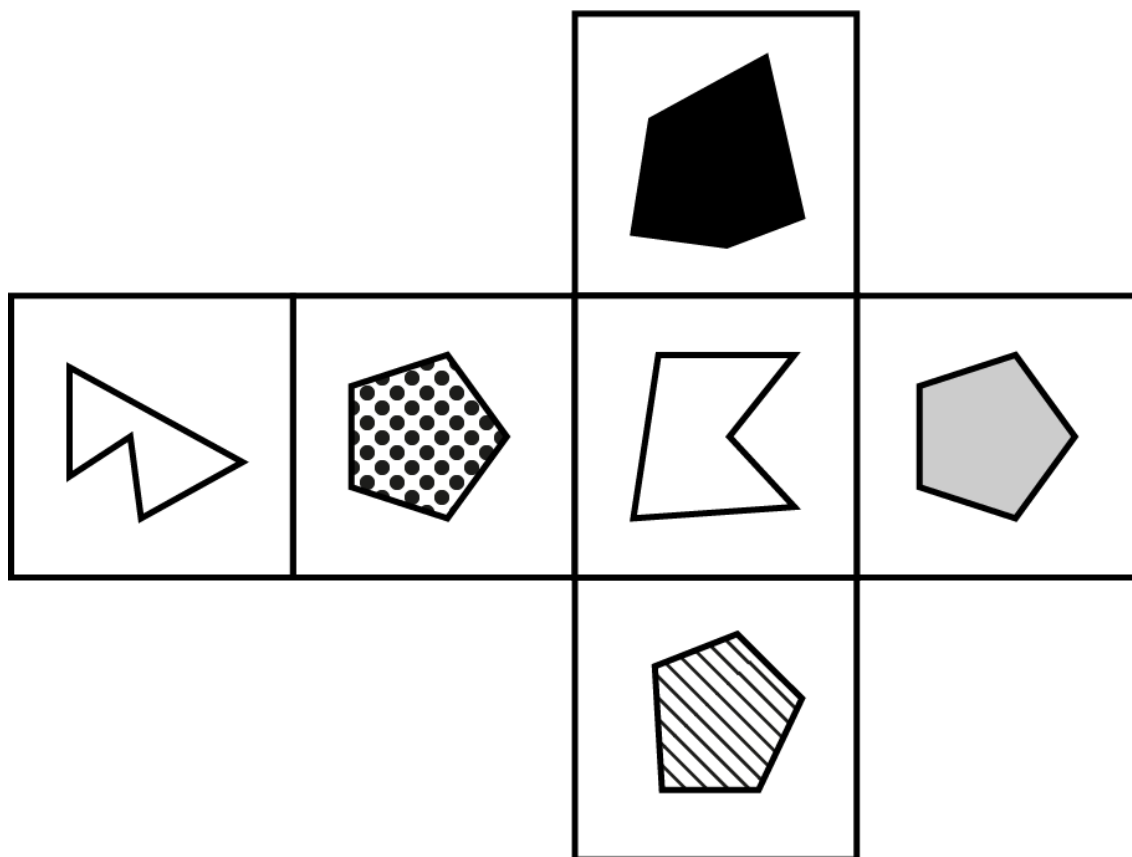
c ☐



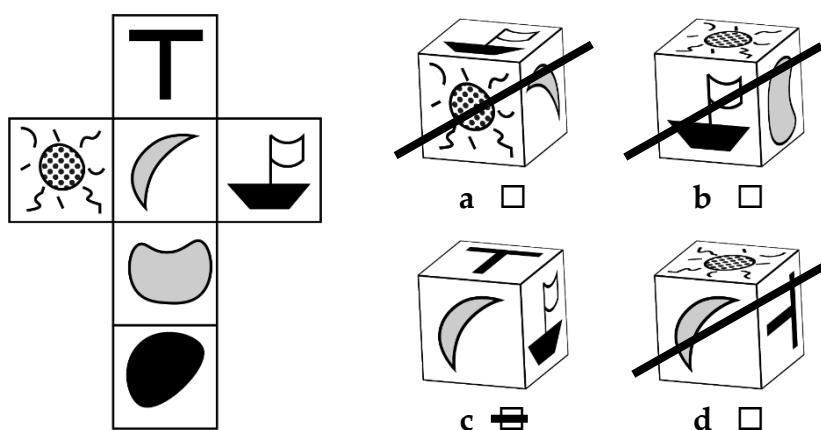
d ☐

The helpful thing here is that the white pentagon in the centre of the T appears on three of the cubes.

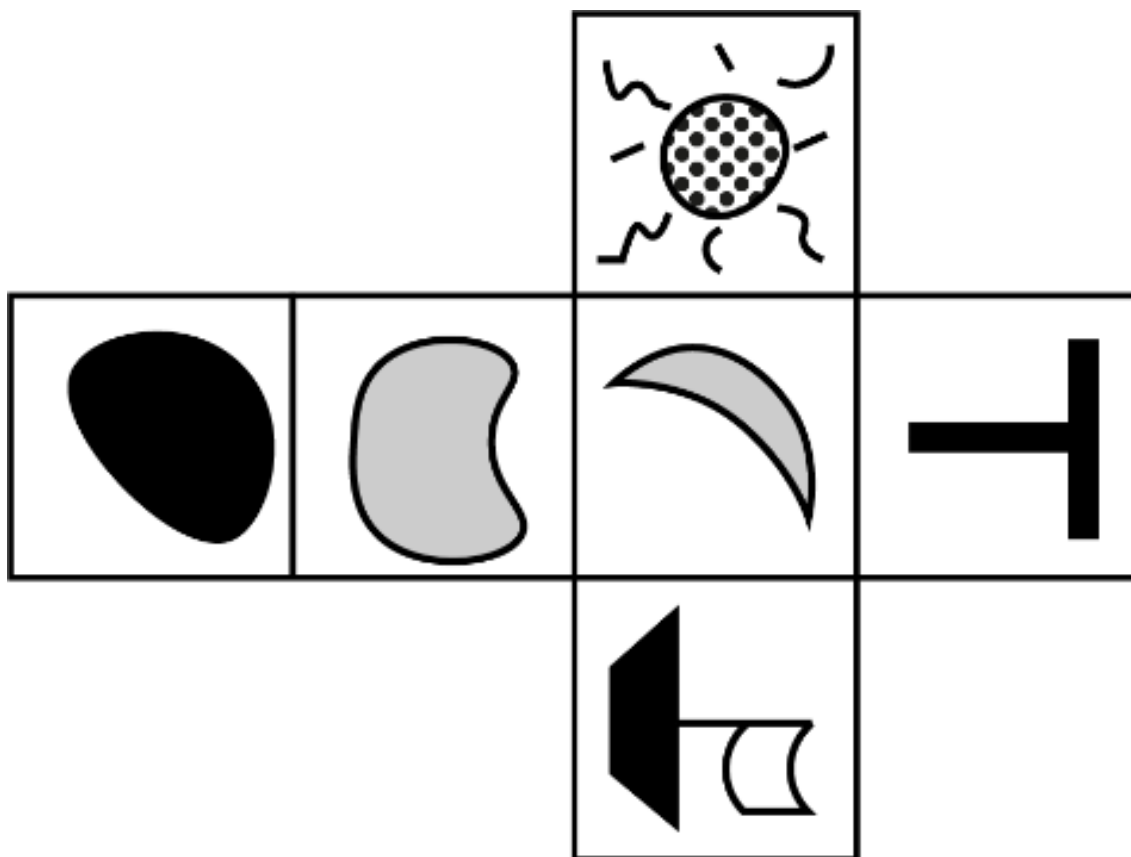
Whenever the central figure appears, it is fairly easy to place the other figures relative to it.



45.



The crescent moon, the boat and the letter T are the most useful figures to concentrate on here.



Two words in each sentence have had their letters jumbled up. Rearrange them so that the sentence makes good sense.

46. PIRAL APRIL is the cruellest TMHON MONTH.

47. REKCCTI CRICKET is more popular in this UCNRYTO COUNTRY than baseball.

48. Do you have a SITUES TISSUE that I could use to PWIE WIPE my nose?

49. The rain is GIPTPAN TAPPING on the YALCONB BALCONY.

50. England LARYER RARELY do well in LATRINAINTONE INTERNATIONAL football competitions.

There are two crucial things to bear in mind with questions of this sort:

- Pay as much attention to the context – the whole sentence – as to the jumbled letters. For instance, “GIPTPAN” may in itself be a baffling anagram, but there are relatively few things that rain is likely to do on a balcony.
- Sometimes a word will simply defeat you. Do not get bogged down! Move on, and come back to it later: in other words, **skip and circle**.

When you come back to a difficult anagram, one useful approach can be to write the letters out in a non-linear fashion (not in a line).

For example, LARYER (which gives RARELY) might look like this:

```

      R      E
        L    R
      A      Y
  
```

A traditional method for crossword solvers, this can be a good way to imagine the letters in different combinations.

END
