Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning – Paper 14

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 9-17**). 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.

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.

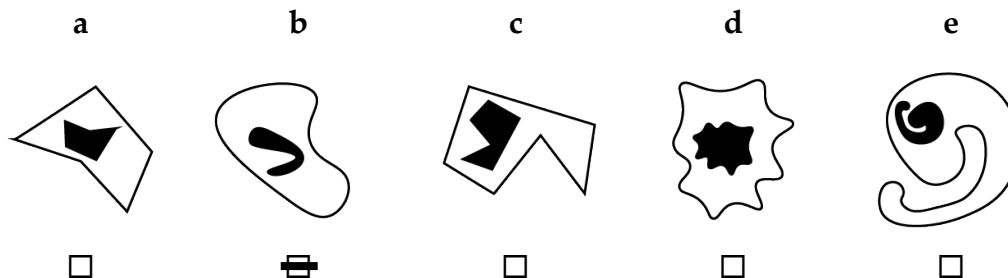| **Example:** |
| --- |
| **Q.**   hasten   rush   ~~delay~~   hurry |

1.   wan   pallid   livid   pale

2.   agitated   placid   flustered   fidgety

3.   layer   lump   strip   vein

4.   massive   heavy   ponderous   delicate

5.   slow   lucid   obtuse   unimaginative

6.   apple   banana   peer   apricot

7.   ice   rain   river   lava

8.   obtuse   stupid   circumflex   acute
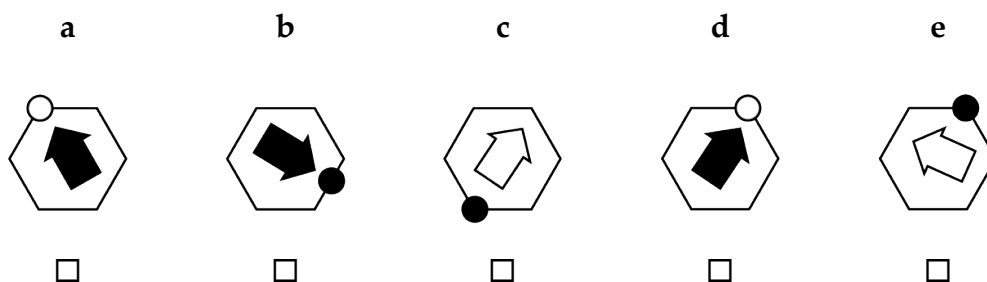
9.   obstruct   block   steady   bar

10.   repel   absorb   cushion   dull

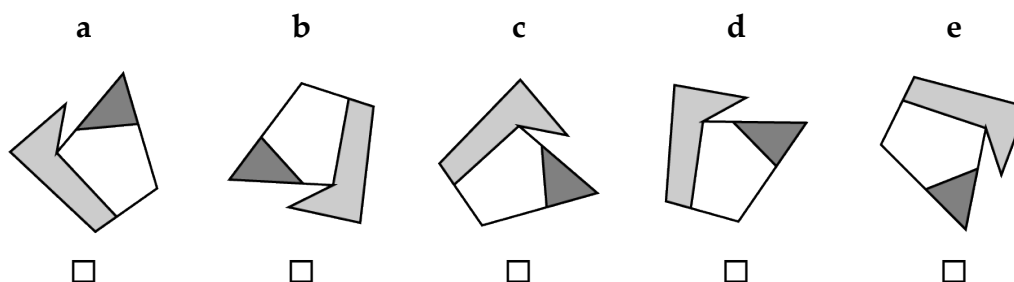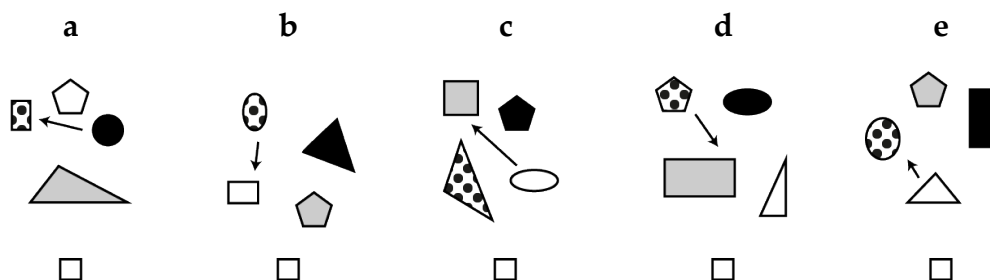**Select the figure which is most unlike the other options in its row.**

Example:

11.

12.

13.

14.

| a | b | c | d | e |

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

15.

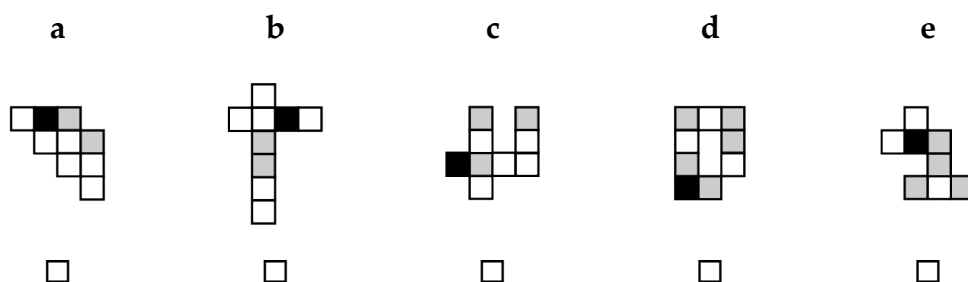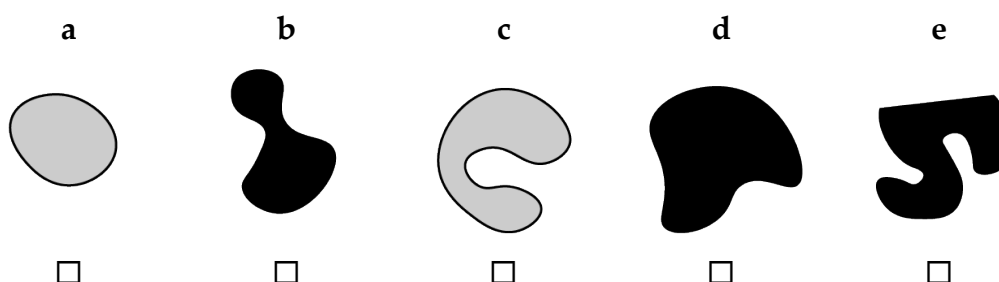| a | b | c | d | e |

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Underline the two words (one from each group) which are most similar in meaning.

Example:
Q.   (twin, <u>pair</u>, triplet)   (group, birth, <u>couple</u>)

16.   (salve, foray, salute)   (triumph, soothe, irritate)

17.   (sea, china, country)   (japan, porcelain, glass)

18.   (circular, round, oval)   (square, newsletter, poster)

19.   (sort, writer, edit)   (print, type, letters)

20.   (spring, summer, autumn)   (crouch, leap, fly)

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

Example:
Q.   **close**   <u>distant</u>   near   proximate   awkward

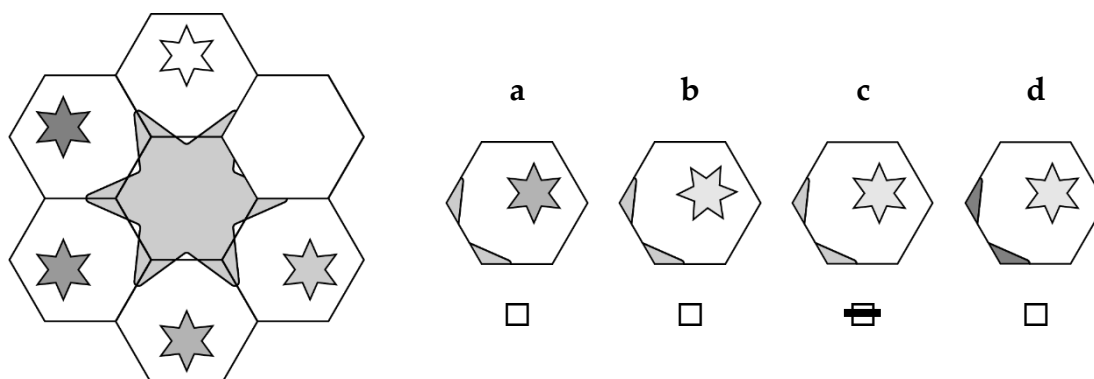**21.**   **hectic**   tranquil   busy   empty   exaggerated

22.   **urban**   polite   rural   discourteous   city

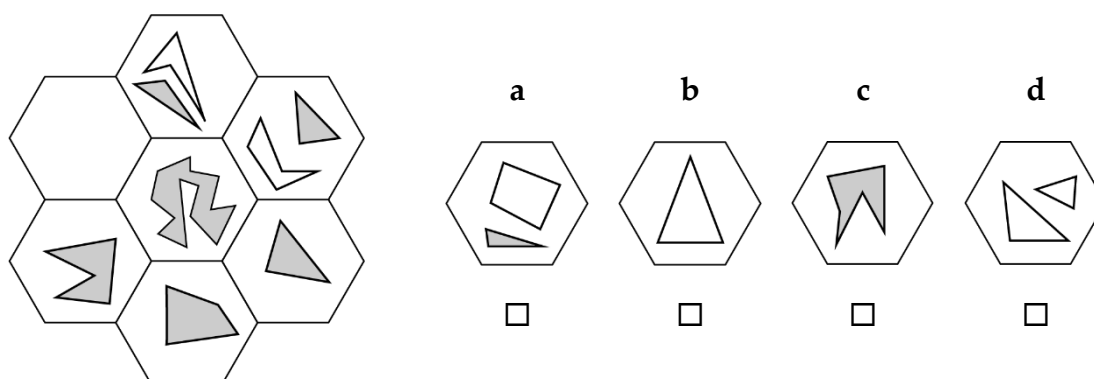23. **meandering**   ponderous   direct   quick   accurate

24. **vicious**   dangerous   carnivorous   caring   vegetarian

25. **lethal**   perilous   restorative   happy   useful

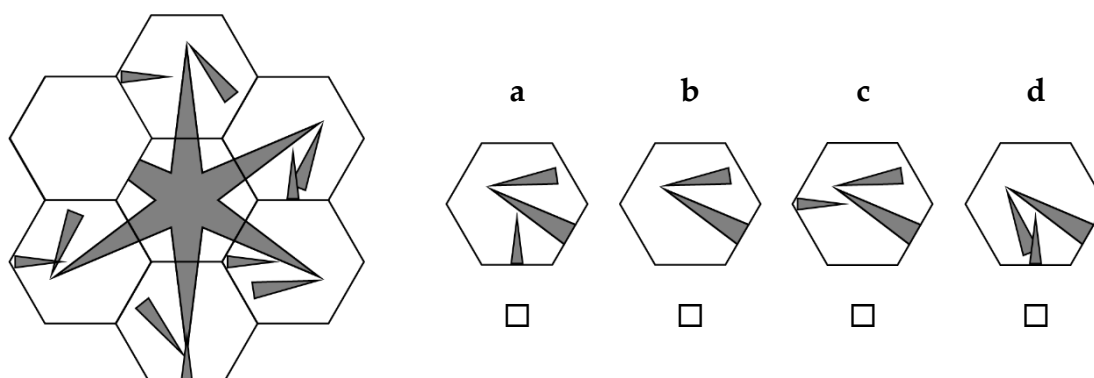**Choose the hexagon on the right which goes best in the empty space on the left.**
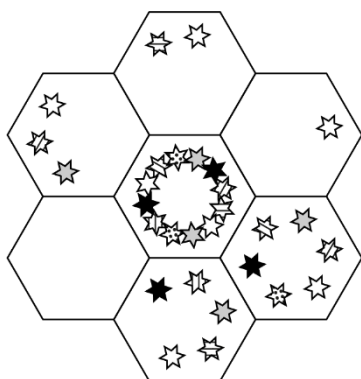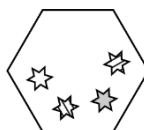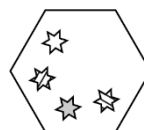
Example:

26.

27.

28.

       a   **b**   **c**   **d**

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐
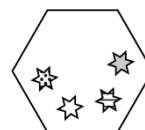
29.
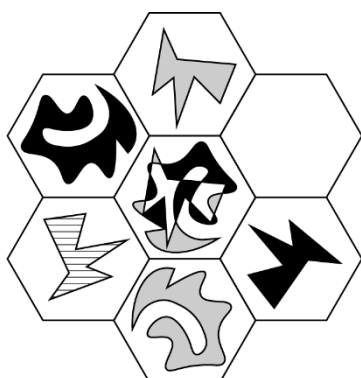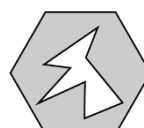
       a   **b**   **c**   **d**

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

30.

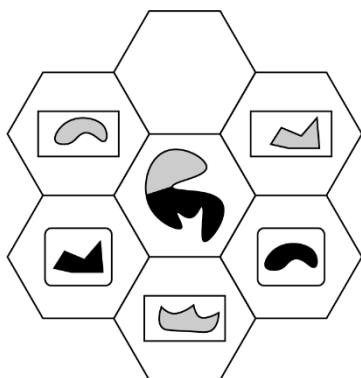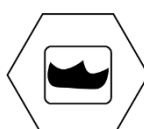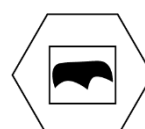   **a**   **b**   **c**   **d**

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

In each of these sentences there is a hidden four-letter word, which overlaps the end of one word and the beginning of the next. Write it in the answer space.

Example:	
Q. Don't start entering the pool until I tell you!	*tent*

31.   I'm afraid that isn't the attitude you need.   _____

32.   Always sew with care and attention.   _____

33.   Never knit with your old courgette.   _____

34.   Patient focus on detail is the mindset we advise.   _____

35.   That is not important, although I sympathise.   _____

A four-letter word can be added to the capital letters, making a longer word which fits logically within the sentence. Write the four-letter word in the gap.
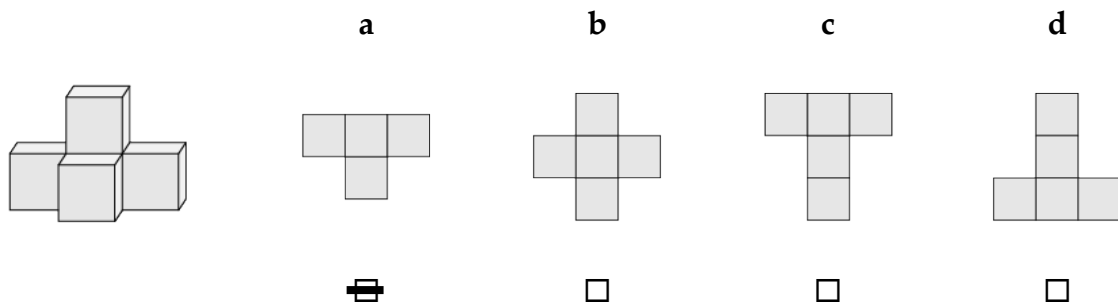

Example:

Q.   Water poured from all the DOWNSS.   *POUT*

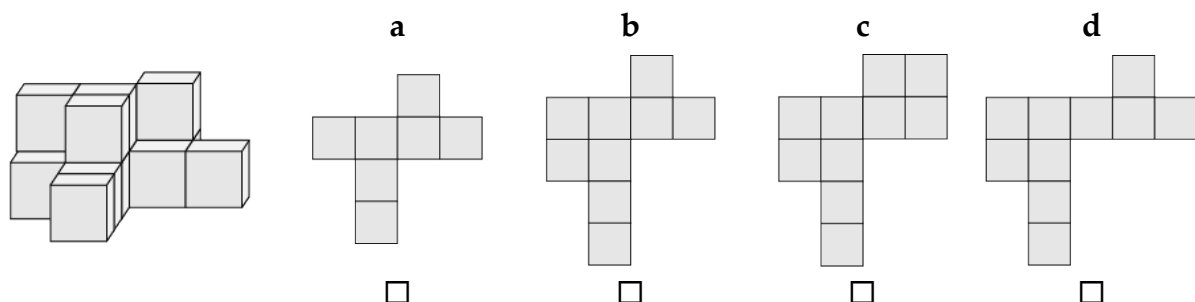**36.**   My CONTION of carbohydrates is too high!   _____

37.   That's enough EMENT for one camping trip.   _____

38.   They stared in AMENT.   _____

39.   That evidence remains UNINED by the police.   _____

40.   She replied with a witty REDER.   _____

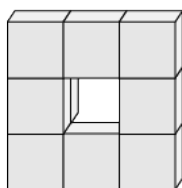**Which option on the right is a top-down 2D view of the 3D figure on the left?**
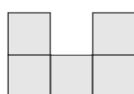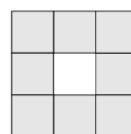
Example:

a   b   c   d

41.

a   b   c   d

42.
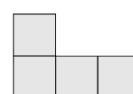
	a	**b**	**c**	**d**
	☐	☐	☐	☐

43.
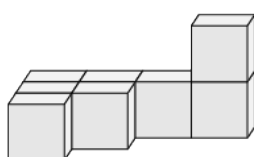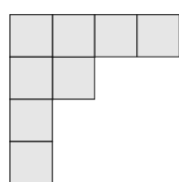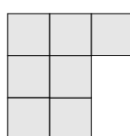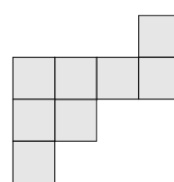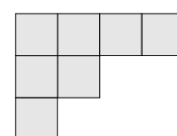
	a	**b**	**c**	**d**
	☐	☐	☐	☐

44.
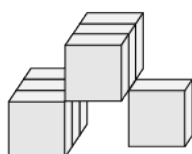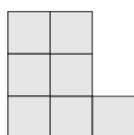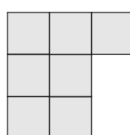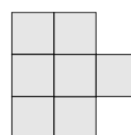
	a	**b**	**c**	**d**
	☐	☐	☐	☐
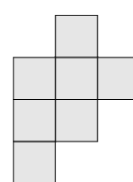
45.
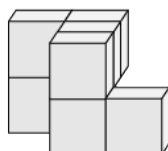
	a	**b**	**c**	**d**
	☐	☐	☐	☐
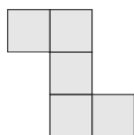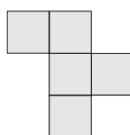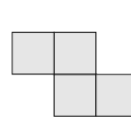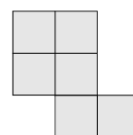
Each one of the five number codes matches one of the words listed below. Write the correct number code next to each word. Each single-digit number always represents the same letter.

1 2 3 4   **7 2 2 8**   **1 3 9 6**   **5 3 6 2**   **4 3 9 2**

46. BAKE   _____

47. FEED   _____

48. SACK   _____

49. SEAR   _____

50. RACE   _____

TOTAL MARKS: 50

Solutions

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

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.

1.   wan   pallid   ~~livid~~   pale

2.   agitated   ~~placid~~   flustered   fidgety

3.   layer   ~~lump~~   strip   vein

Sometimes it's a simple matter of opposite meanings: "livid" suggests a strong, dark colour, while the other options in Q1 suggest the opposite.

Sometimes you need to think more about the concept involved. "Layers", "strips" and "veins" are all narrow things (though only actually synonymous in limited circumstances), while a "lump" is not.

4.   massive   heavy   ponderous   ~~delicate~~

5.   slow   ~~lucid~~   obtuse   unimaginative

6.   apple   banana   ~~peer~~   apricot

Q6 is more a spelling test (peer/pear) than anything else!

7.   ice   rain   river   ~~lava~~

This is a general knowledge question: the first three things are made of water.

8.   obtuse   ~~stupid~~   circumflex   acute

Three of these can describe angles.

9.   obstruct   block   ~~steady~~   bar

10.   ~~repel~~   absorb   cushion   dull

Select the figure which is most unlike the other options in its row.

11.

a   b   c   d   e
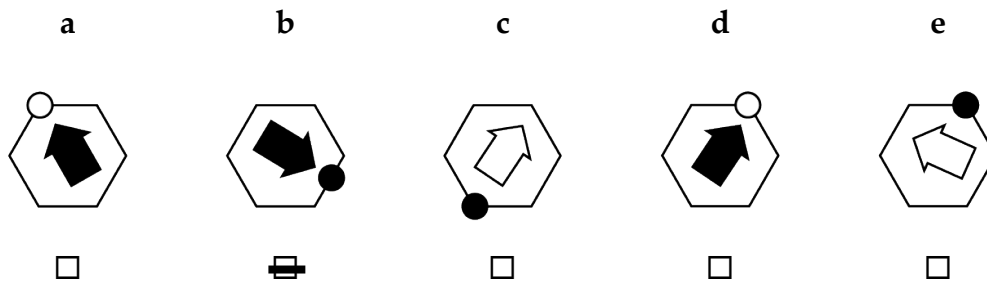
Check whether the circle is at a vertex (meeting point of lines), or part way along a side.

12.

a   b   c   d   e
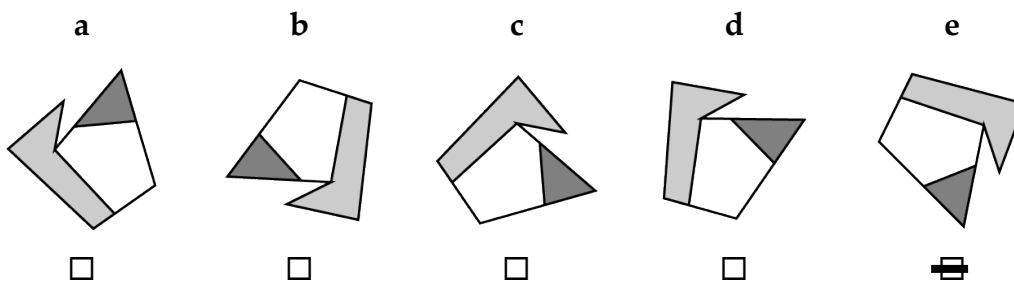
Look for the one that isn't a rotation of the others. The shaded triangle in **e** is slightly different in shape.

13.

a   b   c   d   e

In the others, the arrow is pointing at a quadrilateral (four-sided shape).

14.

a	b	c	d	e
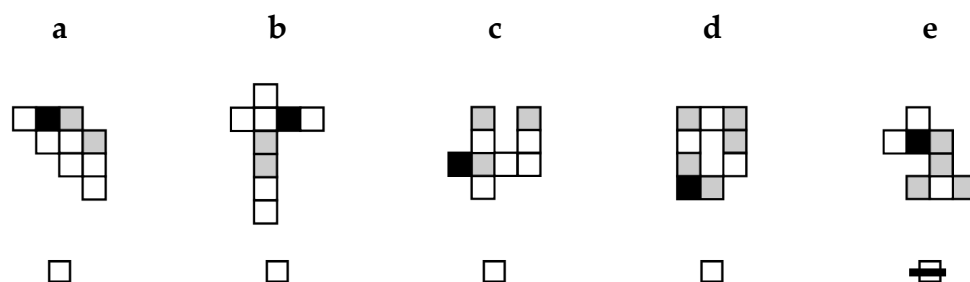
The others each contain 9 small squares.

15.

a	b	c	d	e
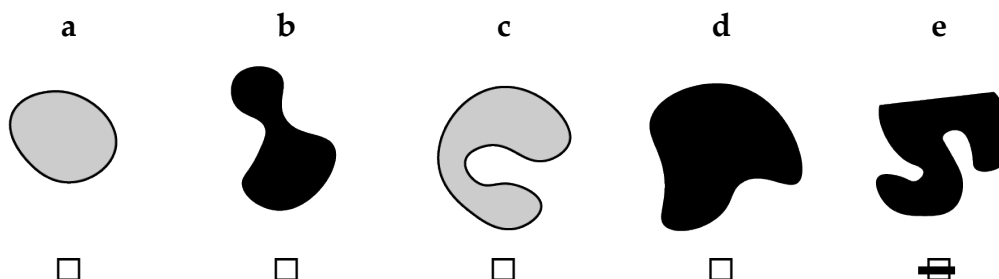
Only **e** contains a straight line.

Four questions in a row have had **e** as an answer. These things can happen! Take each question on its own merits, and never second-guess based on which answers you've chosen previously.

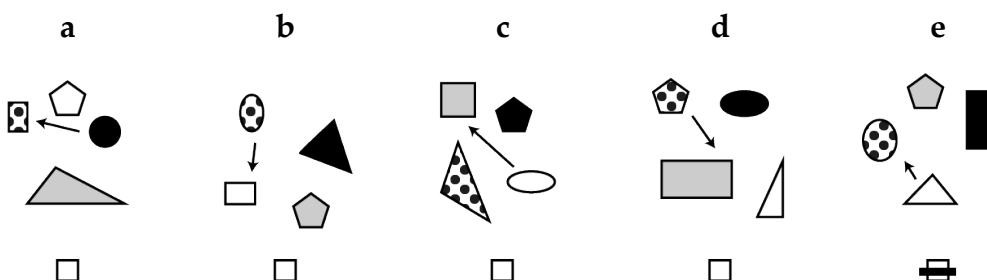| **Underline the two words (one from each group) which are most similar in meaning.**	
16. (<u>salve</u>, foray, salute)	(triumph, <u>soothe</u>, irritate)
17. (sea, <u>china</u>, country)	(japan, <u>porcelain</u>, glass)

China and Japan are both countries, but this doesn't make these words similar in meaning, any more than "fox" and "butterfly" – both animals – are similar in meaning.

18. (<u>circular</u>, round, oval)	(square, <u>newsletter</u>, poster)
19. (<u>sort</u>, writer, edit)	(print, <u>type</u>, letters)
20. (<u>spring</u>, summer, autumn)	(crouch, <u>leap</u>, fly)

As I mentioned earlier, sometimes repeated patterns happen. Look at each question objectively and consider it in its own right.

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

| 21. | hectic | <u>tranquil</u> | busy | empty | exaggerated |

"Empty" is *close* to being opposite, but you must choose the **best** answer.

22.	**urban**	polite	<u>rural</u>	discourteous	city
23.	**meandering**	ponderous	<u>direct</u>	quick	accurate
24.	**vicious**	dangerous	carnivorous	<u>caring</u>	vegetarian
25.	**lethal**	perilous	<u>restorative</u>	happy	useful

Q25 is tricky. Something "lethal" does harm to a living thing (kills it), whereas something "restorative" makes it better.

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

26.
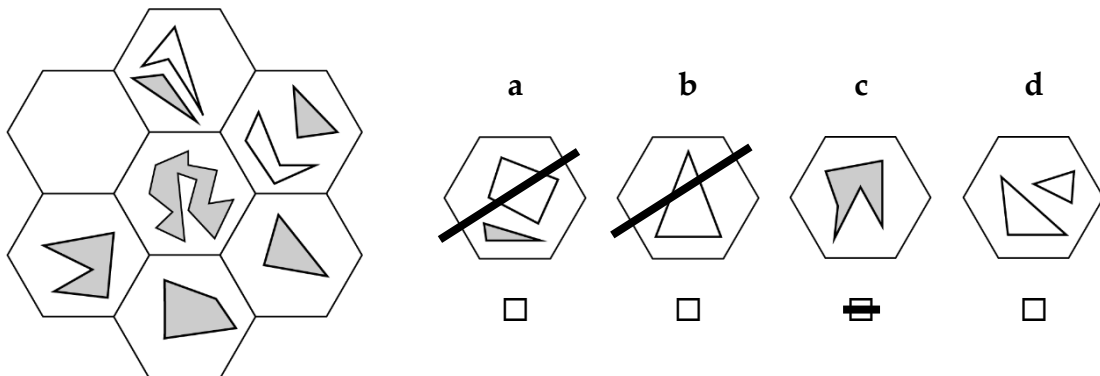
You need six sides in your figure (the number of sides goes 3, 4, 5, …, 7, 8, moving anticlockwise). This leaves c and d. All the figures have a grey element, making **d** a less likely answer than **c**.

27.

The large spike is a continuation of the star in the centre of the grid.

There are two other triangles. One rotates by a sixth as is moves around the outside of the picture. The other alternates between pointing right and pointing upwards.
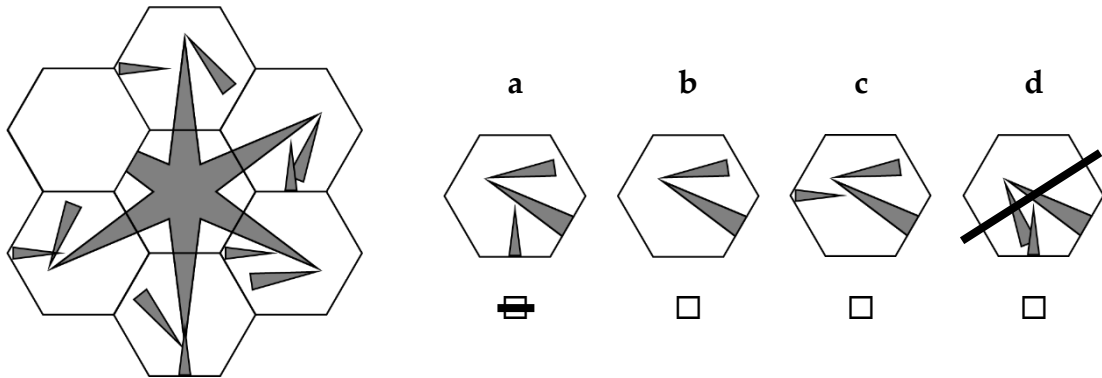
28.
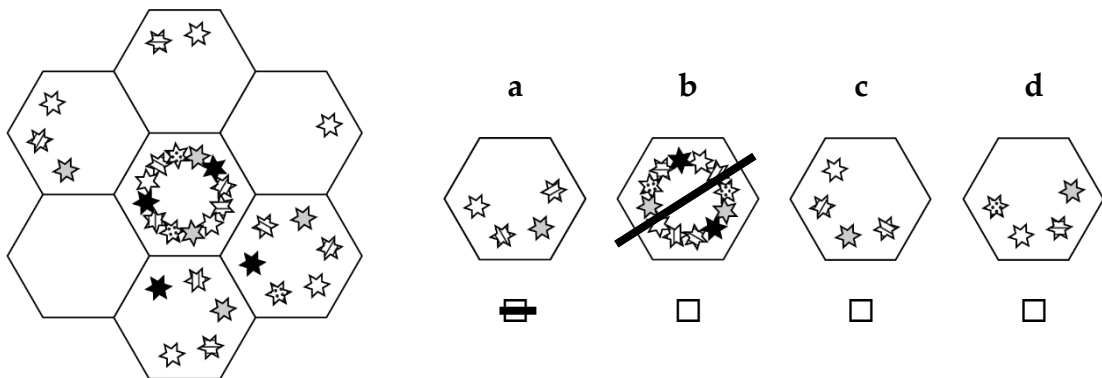
There will be four stars. Track the position of the unfilled (white) star as it moves around the picture.

29.
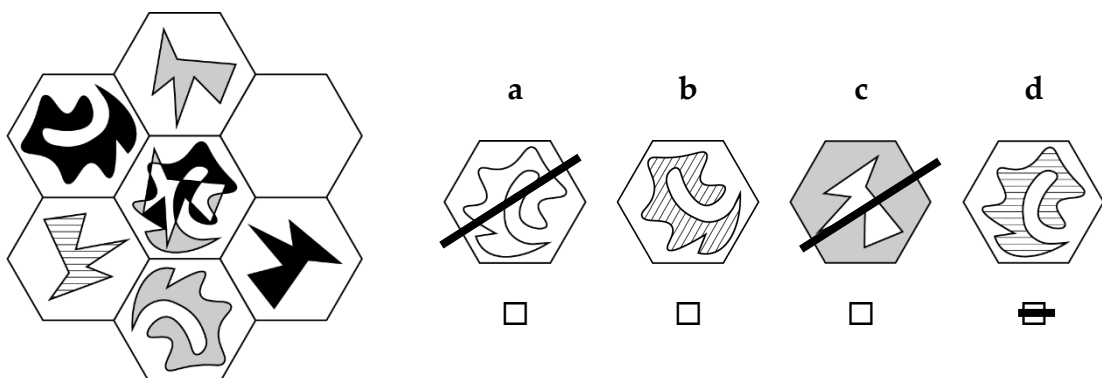
It's impossible to know which way the shading lines should run (**b** or **d**). However, look at the orientation of this shape relative to the centre of the grid, in the bottom and top-left hexagons. Only **d** matches this orientation.

30.

	a	b	c	d

The inner shape will be the same as in the bottom hexagon, but black.

In each of these sentences there is a hidden four-letter word, which overlaps the end of one word and the beginning of the next. Write it in the answer space.

31.   I'm afraid that isn't <u>the at</u>titude you need.   *heat*

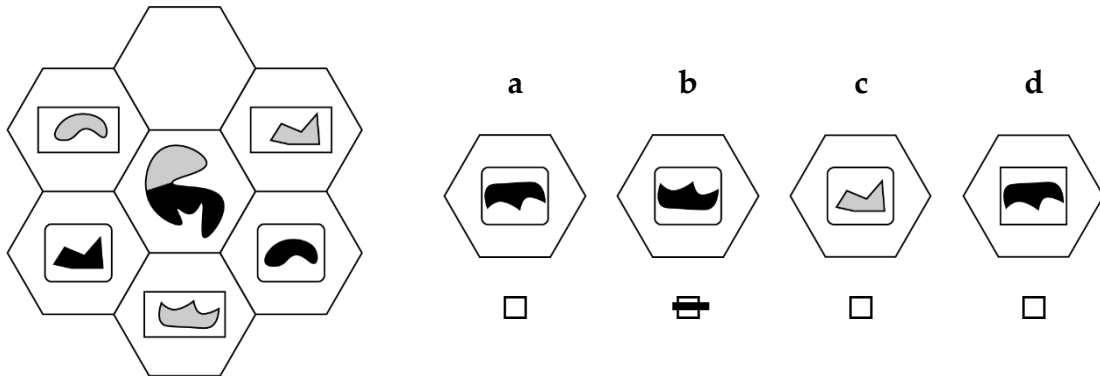**32.**   Always sew with <u>care a</u>nd attention.   *area*

33.   Never kni<u>t wit</u>h your old courgette.   *twit*

34.   Patient focus on detail is <u>the m</u>indset we advise.   *them*

Don't be tricked by "tail": it doesn't **overlap** two words.

35.   That i<u>s not</u> important, although I sympathise.   *snot*

"Snot" (perhaps like "twit" in Q33) may not seem very formal, but there are no other options here! It is still a word.

"Timp"(short for "timpani") is a kind of drum, but abbreviations don't count unless they are words in their own right.

For example, "pres" is an abbreviation for a longer word, rather than a complete word: on hearing it, you might think "that means 'president'", or out of context you might not know what it meant. On the other hand, "maths" (short for "mathematics") would nowadays probably be accepted as a word in its own right, because you wouldn't think "that is short for 'mathematics'" upon hearing it.

A four-letter word can be added to the capital letters, making a longer word which fits logically within the sentence. Write the four-letter word in the gap.

36.   My CONTION of carbohydrates is too high!   *SUMP*

CONSUMPTION

37.   That's enough EMENT for one camping trip.   *QUIP*

EQUIPMENT

38.   They stared in AMENT.   *MAZE*

AMAZEMENT

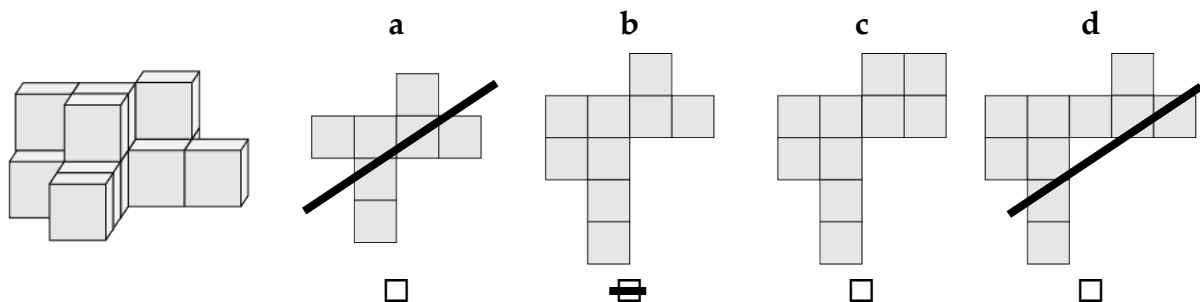**39.**   That evidence remains UNINED by the police.   *EXAM*

UNEXAMINED

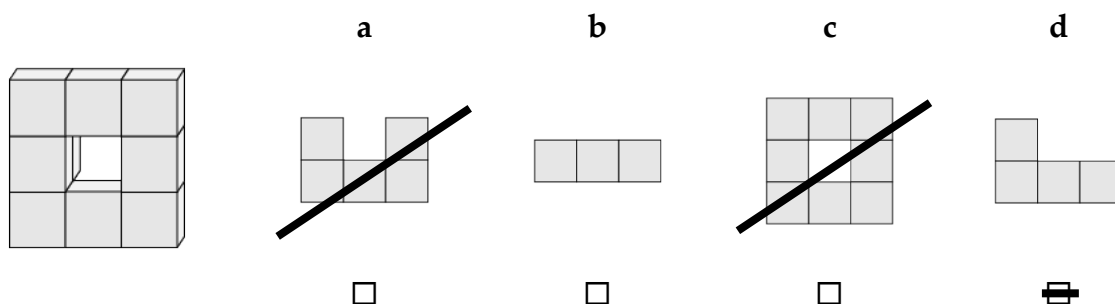**40.**   She replied with a witty REDER.   *JOIN*

REJOINDER

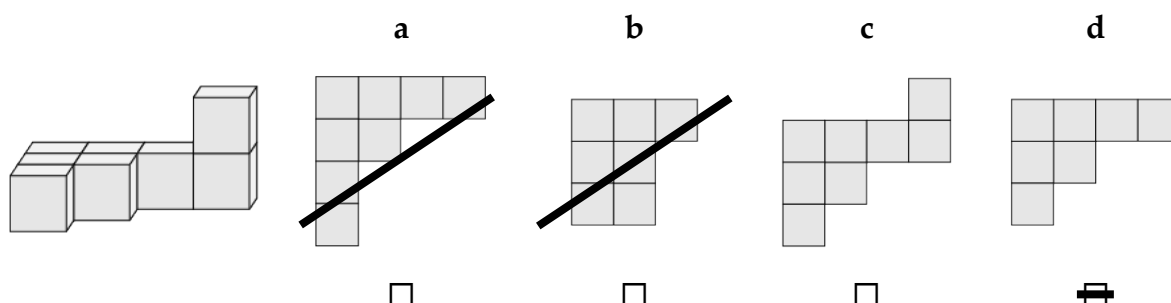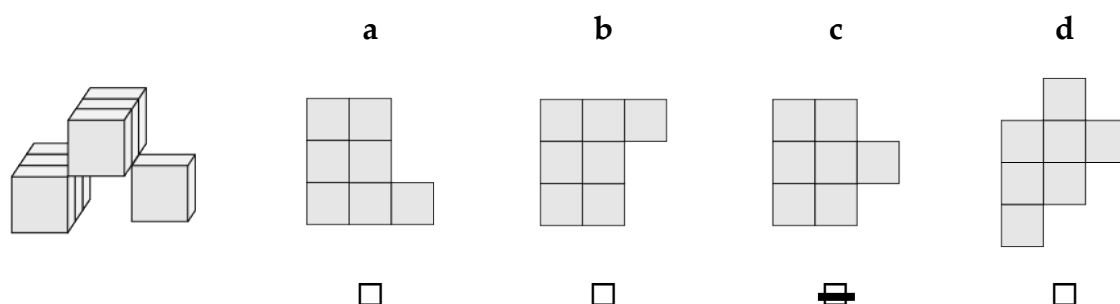**Which option on the right is a top-down 2D view of the 3D figure on the left?**

41.

42.

	a	**b**	**c**	**d**

☐   ☐   ☐   ⊟

Look carefully through the little window!

43.

	a	**b**	**c**	**d**

☐   ☐   ☐   ⊟

Always start by eliminating obviously wrong options.

44.

	a	**b**	**c**	**d**

☐   ☐   ⊟   ☐

Pay careful attention to how everything is aligned. From above, the two left-hand rows match up to make a 2x3 rectangle. The single cube sits half way along the right-hand edge.

45.
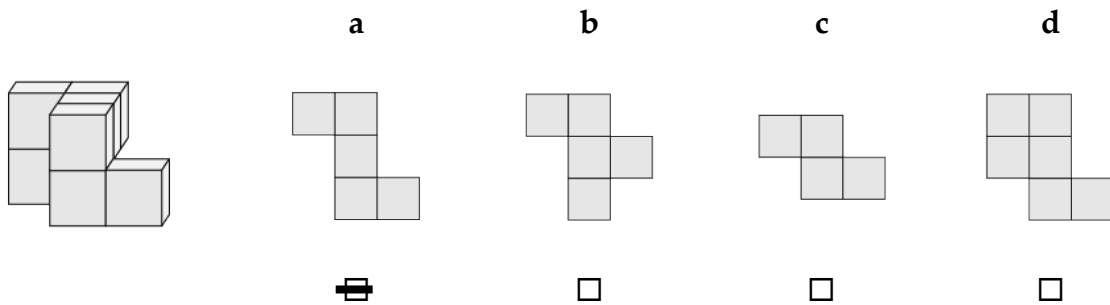
a	b	c	d

☐ (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d)

Each one of the five number codes matches one of the words listed below. Write the correct number code next to each word. Each single-digit number always represents the same letter.

1 2 3 4   7 2 2 8   1 3 9 6   5 3 6 2   4 3 9 2

46. BAKE   *5 3 6 2*

47. FEED   *7 2 2 8*

48. SACK   *1 3 9 6*

49. SEAR   *1 2 3 4*

50. RACE   *4 3 9 2*

Two codes begin with 1, and two words begin with S: 1 = S

Two codes end with 2, and two words end with E: 2 = E

The code 7 2 2 8 is therefore 7 E E 8, which means that it must be FEED. Therefore, 7 = F and 8 = D. Unfortunately, these letters are not used elsewhere.

However, only one code has 2 (E) as its 2nd digit. This must be SEAR. 3 = A and 4 = R.

This gives enough information to work through the rest of the codes and words quite easily.

END