

## Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning – Paper 23

**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. 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.

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**Based only on the two statements below, underline the one option which is definitely correct.**

**Example:**

**Q. Statement 1:** Ethel eats crisps.

**Statement 2:** Crisps are a food made of potatoes.

Ethel eats most kinds of food made of potatoes.

Ethel eats at least one kind of food made of potatoes.

Ethel likes potato crisps.

Ethel probably eats oven chips.

**1. Statement 1:** Iced-over ponds are dangerous to walk on.

**Statement 2:** My grandma's pond usually ices over in January.

Her pond is usually dangerous to walk on in January.

Her pond may be dangerous to walk on in November.

Her pond will be dangerous in January.

Check the ice carefully before walking on it.

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Complete each of the following sequences. The alphabet has been written out for you to refer to.

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. JL IM HN GO FP EQ

2. ACE DFH GIK \_\_\_\_\_ MOQ

3. \_\_\_\_\_ NM OL PK QJ RI

4. BQT ZTR XWP \_\_\_\_\_ TCL RFJ

5. G I \_\_\_\_\_ N Q S

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

6. Rita CERED up the rocks. \_\_\_\_\_

7. I always suffer from SEANESS. \_\_\_\_\_

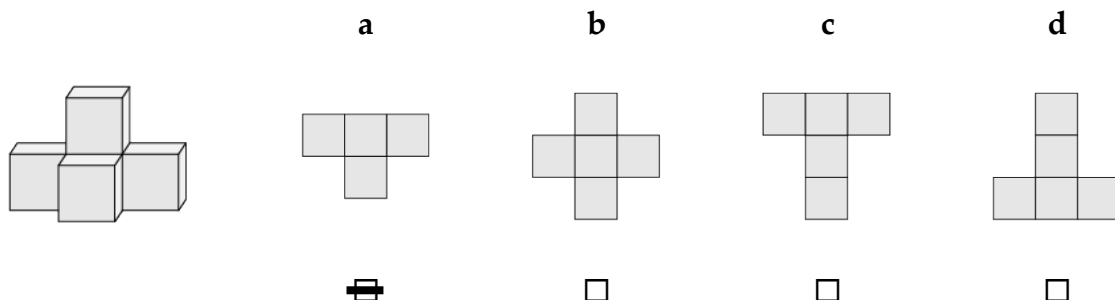
8. The glue still felt SY after an hour. \_\_\_\_\_

9. The vicar was exhausted after three SERS. \_\_\_\_\_

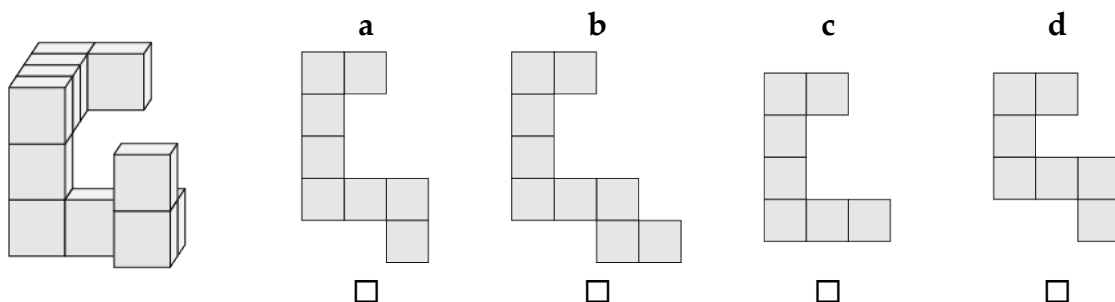
10. Candice rested on her EL. \_\_\_\_\_

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

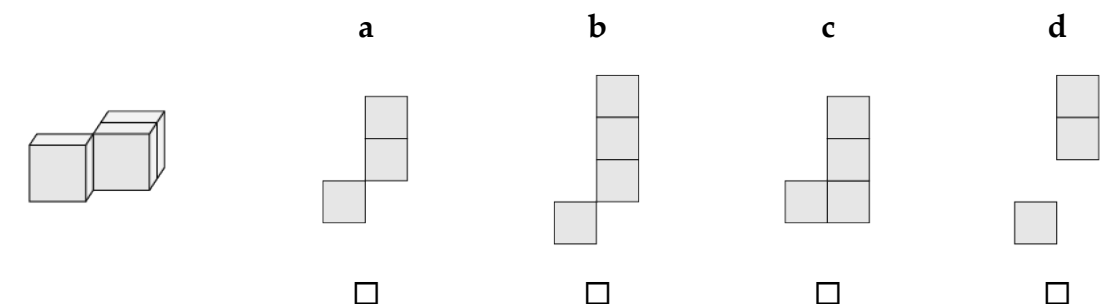
Example:



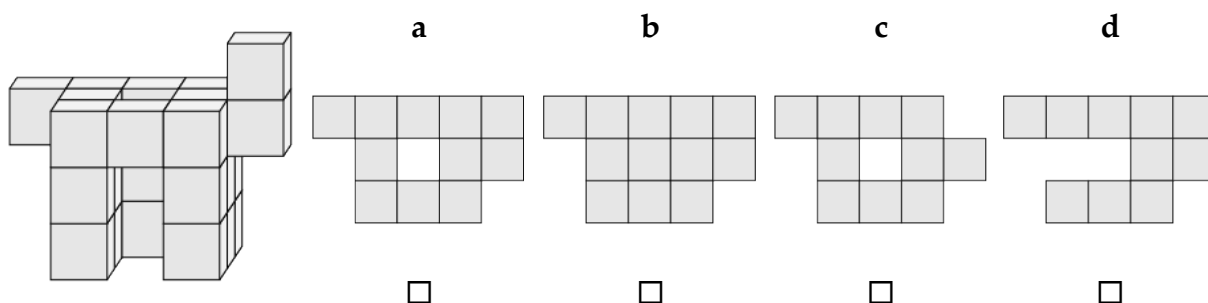
11.



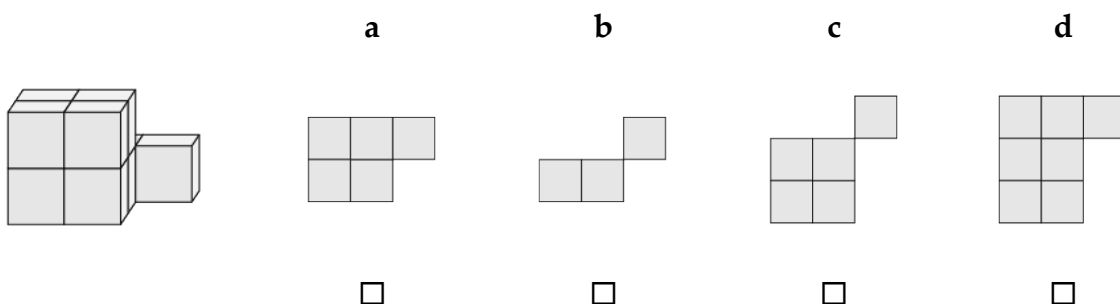
12.



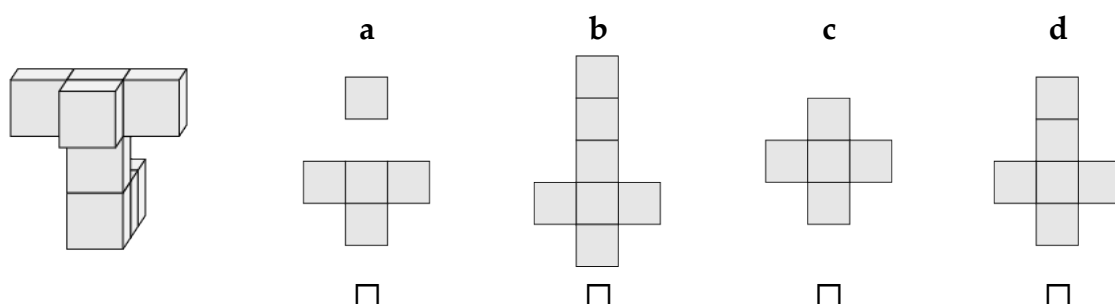
13.



14.



15.



In the gap, write one letter which can end the first word and begin the second word.

Example:

Q. rode o range

16. spo \_\_\_\_ rauma

17. iri \_\_\_\_ tar

18. sin \_\_\_\_ itsch

19. soa \_\_\_\_ ear

20. so \_\_\_\_ and

Underline the most appropriate word in each set of brackets, so that the sentence makes the best possible sense.

Example:

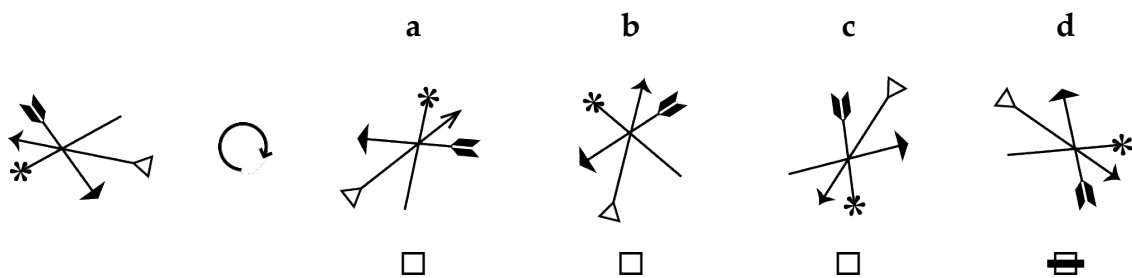
Q. Once upon a (castle, time, story), there was an (alkaline, ambient, elderly) giant who lived out his years in a remote (episode, castle, discomfort).

21. The cat is (gaining, becoming, more) weight, so we (were, was, will) put him on a (plate, diet, exercise).

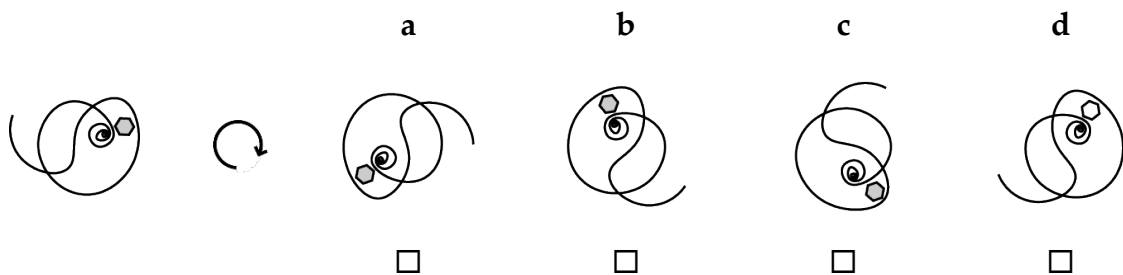
22. To (harvest, collect, brew) tea, first (submerge, add, imbue) the bag in boiling water, then wait (patiently, badly, time) until the water has reached the desired colour.
23. The (stones, rain, thatch) it raineth on the just, and (also, however, rain) on the unjust fella; but chiefly on the just, because the unjust hath the just's (keys, umbrella, fax).
24. The drummer is out of (country, land, control), crashing out (regular, wild, steady) beats that send the band into (torpor, confusion, inertia).
25. Don't (forget, remember, misplace) to back up all the (biscuits, files, monitors) on your computer: some day you'll be (glad, morose, enthusiastic) that you did it!

Choose the figure on the right which is a rotation of the figure on the left.

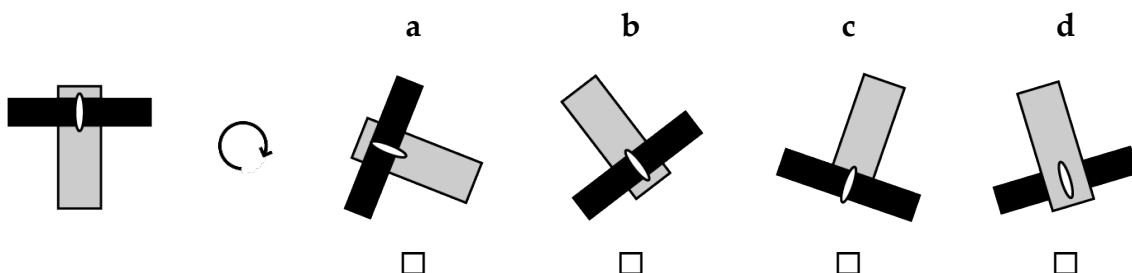
Example:



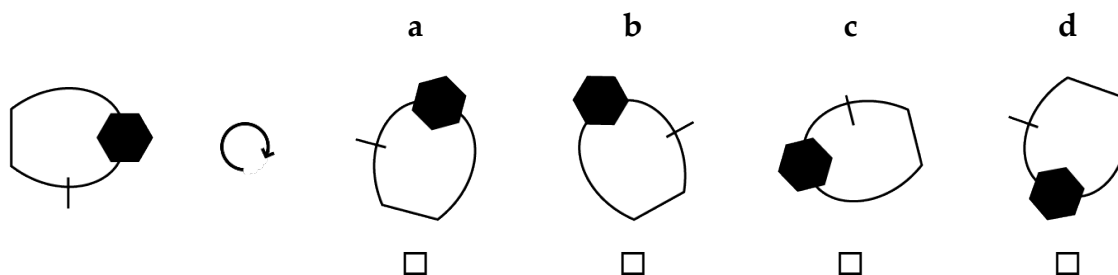
26.



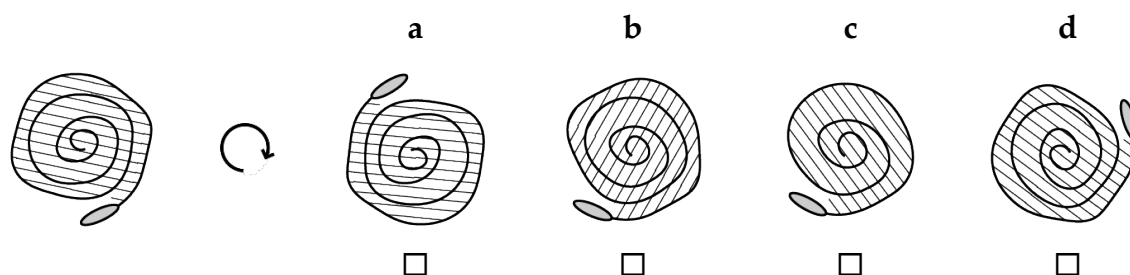
27.



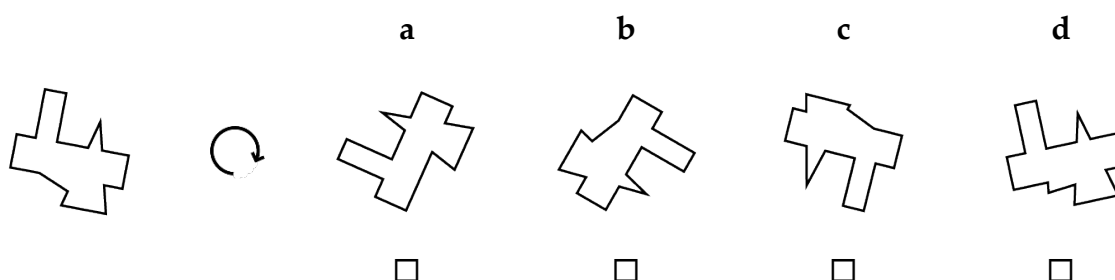
28.



29.



30.



Here are four groups of words:

A	B	C	D
passion	tree	egg	Peter
fear	grass	shoe	Rome

Next to each of the following words, write the letter name of the group to which it belongs.

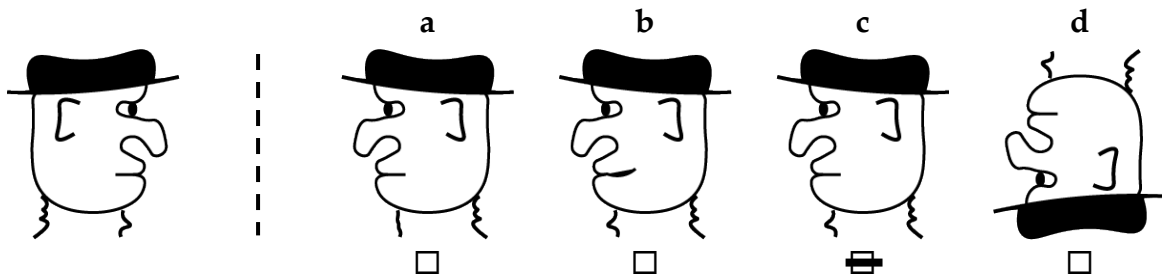
Example:

Q. tree B

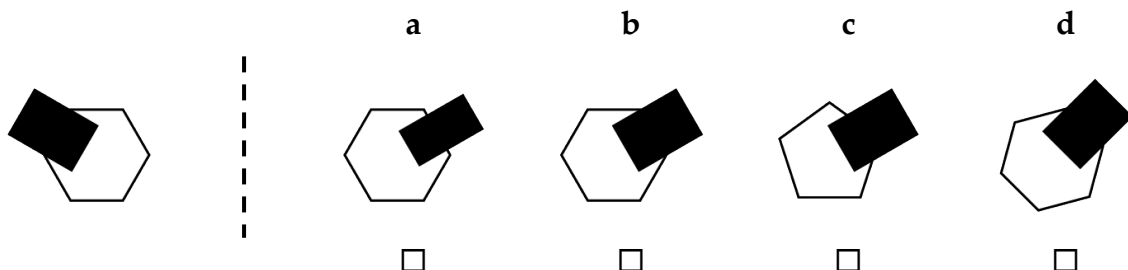
31. puddle \_\_\_\_ 32. mat \_\_\_\_ 33. obstinacy \_\_\_\_ 34. place \_\_\_\_  
 35. Mike \_\_\_\_ 36. bush \_\_\_\_ 37. Poland \_\_\_\_ 38. jar \_\_\_\_  
 39. crop \_\_\_\_ 40. tooth \_\_\_\_

Choose the figure on the right which is a reflection in the dotted line of the figure on the left.

Example:



41.



42.



a


☐

b


☐

c


☐

d


☐

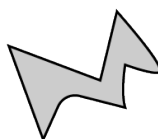
43.



a


☐

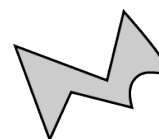
b


☐

c


☐

d


☐

44.



a


☐

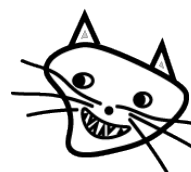
b


☐

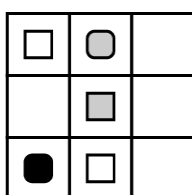
c


☐

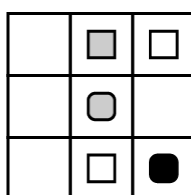
d


☐

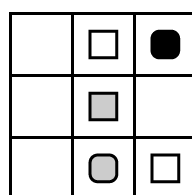
45.



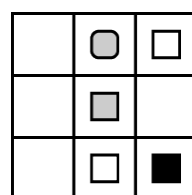
a


☐

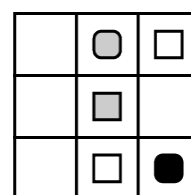
b


☐

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

46. Why does he have unusually spaced eyelashes? \_\_\_\_\_
47. You seem to be struggling, but don't give up! \_\_\_\_\_
48. The field was thick with flowers and butterflies. \_\_\_\_\_
49. Ask him what he is going to need. \_\_\_\_\_
50. She perched on the pool's flat rim. \_\_\_\_\_

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**TOTAL MARKS: 50**

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## Solutions

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

**Based only on the two statements below, underline the one option which is definitely correct.**

1. **Statement 1:** Iced-over ponds are dangerous to walk on.  
**Statement 2:** My grandma's pond usually ices over in January.
- Her pond is usually dangerous to walk on in January.  
 Her pond may be dangerous to walk on in November.  
 Her pond will be dangerous in January.  
 Check the ice carefully before walking on it.

There's nothing in the statements about checking the ice, or about November.

The pond "usually" ices over: we can't say that it "will" be icy, and thus dangerous.

You might argue that a pond is always dangerous, but this would be your opinion, rather than something based on the statements. We are only told about "iced-over" ponds being dangerous.

"Her" must refer to "my grandma". There is no other female noun that it might refer to, and there is no plausible option without a "her".

**Complete each of the following sequences. The alphabet has been written out for you to refer to.**

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

2. ACE      DFH      GIK      ILN      MOQ

Break these problems into **separate sequences**: consider the first letter in each group, the second, and so on.

Looking at the first letters, A – D – G skips three places each time, so the next letter is J.

C – F – I has the same pattern, as does E – H – K.

3. MN NM OL PK QJ RI

The first letters move one place each time. So do the second letters, but in the opposite direction.

4. BQT ZTR XWP VZN TCL RFJ

The first letter moves two places left along the alphabet with each step.

- In these problems, you need to imagine a continuous alphabet which wraps at the beginning and the end, including T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G.

The second letter moves two steps right.

The third letter, like the first, moves two places left.

5. G I L N Q S

This is harder than it looks at first glance.

The key is to look at N – Q (jumps 3 places) and Q – S (jumps 2). G – I is also a jump of 2.

This should suggest that the jumps alternate between 2 and 3 letters. Trying L in the space confirms that this works.

**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.**

6. Rita CERED up the rocks. LAMB

CLAMBERED

This may not be obvious. However, if you take the clue at face value as referring to climbing or scrambling and look for relevant verbs, “clamber” (thus “clambered”) may well come to mind.

7. I always suffer from SEANESS. SICK

SEASICKNESS

8. The glue still felt SY after an hour.

TICK

STICKY. "Slimey" would generally be regarded as a misspelling of "slimy", so "LIME" is not a correct answer.

9. The vicar was exhausted after three SERS.

VICE

SERVICES

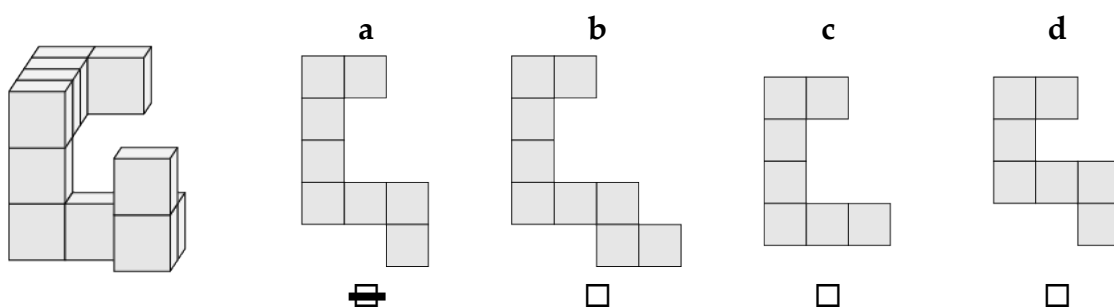
10. Candice rested on her EL.

BOWS

ELBOWS

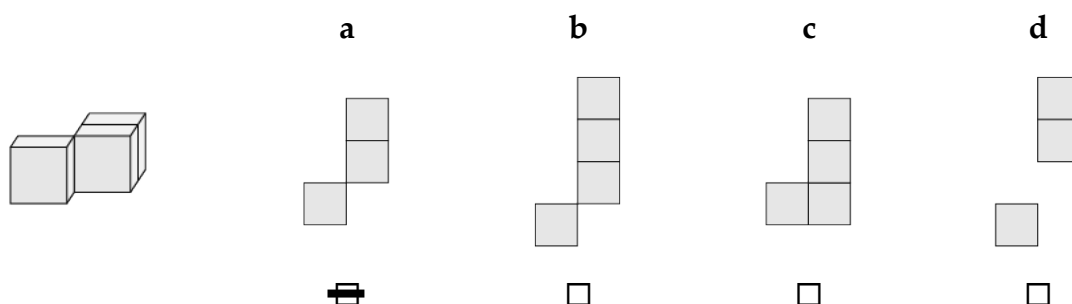
Which option on the right is a top-down 2D view of the 3D figure on the left?

11.

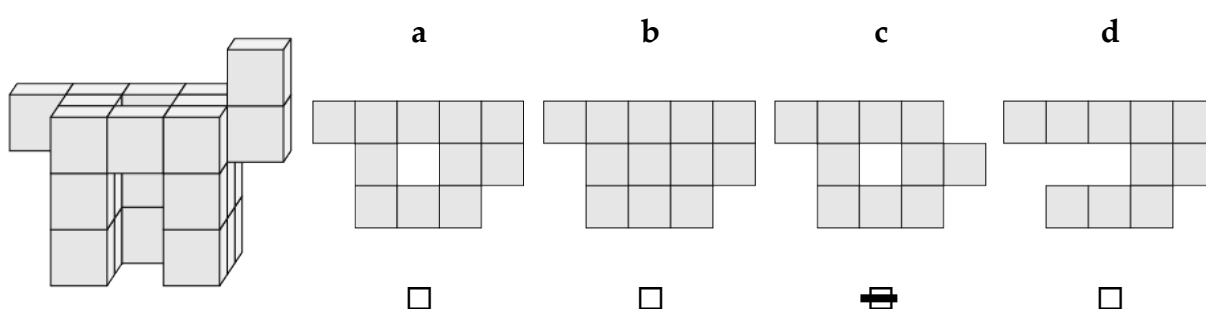


Count the front-to-back depth very carefully.

12.

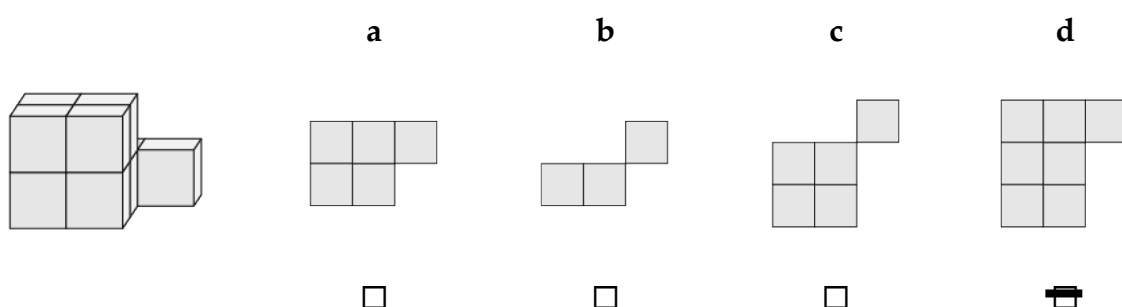


13.



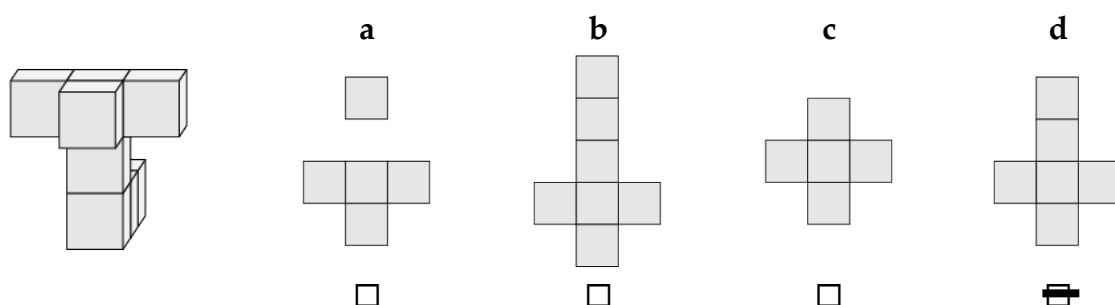
You need to look over the top surface very carefully in order to identify where there are gaps, and where there aren't.

14.



It's very tricky to choose between **c** and **d** here. You have to look very closely at the 3D figure, if you are to see the extra block tucked in behind!

15.



In the gap, write one letter which can end the first word and begin the second word.

16. spo t rauma

17. iri S tar

18. sin k itsch

If you don't recognise "kitsch", you'll have to look at letters that might go after "sin\_" (S, G or K), and then decide which option at least *sounds* most plausible at the start of the second word.

19. soa p ear or soa r ear

20. so w and or so b and

**Underline the most appropriate word in each set of brackets, so that the sentence makes the best possible sense.**

21. The cat is (gaining, becoming, more) weight, so we (were, was, will) put him on a (plate, diet, exercise).

Unless you are a cat-eater, you are unlikely to put one on a plate.

22. To (harvest, collect, brew) tea, first (submerge, add, imbue) the bag in boiling water, then wait (patiently, badly, time) until the water has reached the desired colour.

"Imbue" is close to being an option, but you would imbue something *with* something else – not "in" it.

23. The (stones, rain, thatch) it raineth on the just, and (also, however, rain) on the unjust fella; but chiefly on the just, because the unjust hath the just's (keys, umbrella, fax).

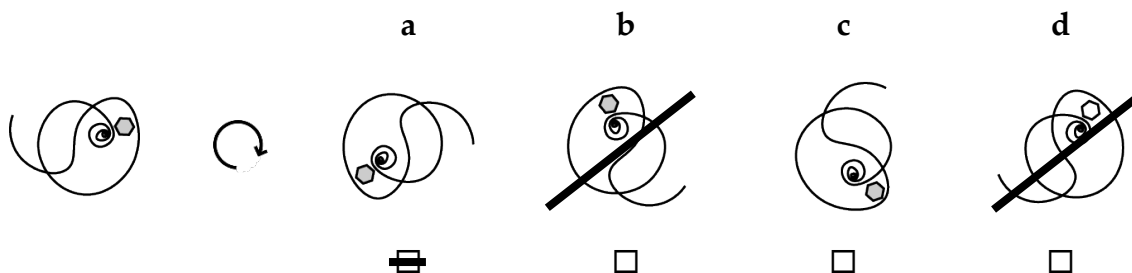
This is a famous quotation from Charles Bowen, a nineteenth century judge and writer. In a joking fashion, it makes the point that crime really *can* pay, and that life is not fair!

24. The drummer is out of (country, land, control), crashing out (regular, wild, steady) beats that send the band into (torpor, confusion, inertia).

25. Don't (forget, remember, misplace) to back up all the (biscuits, files, monitors) on your computer: some day you'll be (glad, morose, enthusiastic) that you did it!

Choose the figure on the right which is a rotation of the figure on the left.

26.

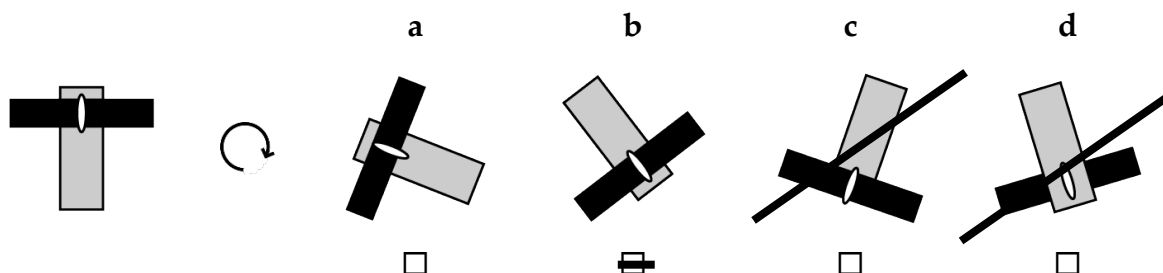


This is really tough.

**b** involves a reflection, while **d** has a white (not grey) hexagon.

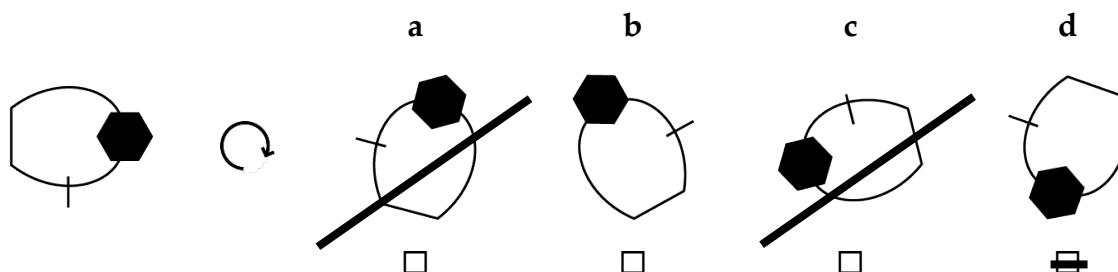
**a** and **c** are very similar indeed, but notice that the grey hexagon in **c** has been slightly rotated relative to the eye-like element. In the original figure, the eye looks towards a flat side of the hexagon; in **c**, it looks towards a point/vertex.

27.



Look at the location of the black horizontal bar, and where the small white lozenge is positioned relative to it.

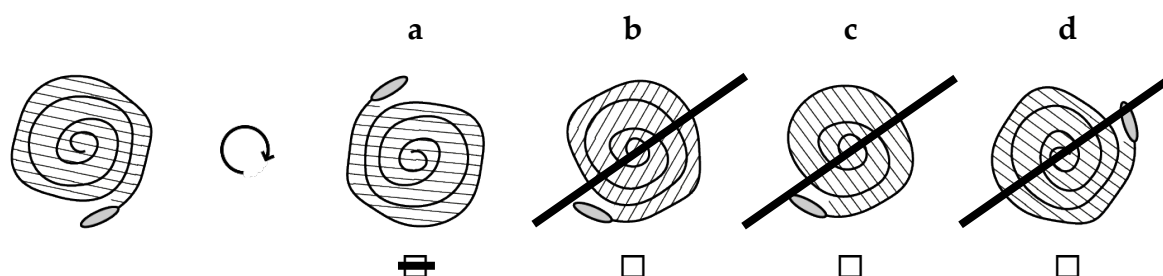
28.



**a** is ruled out for having the short line on the wrong side, and **c** for having most of it inside – rather than outside – the shape.

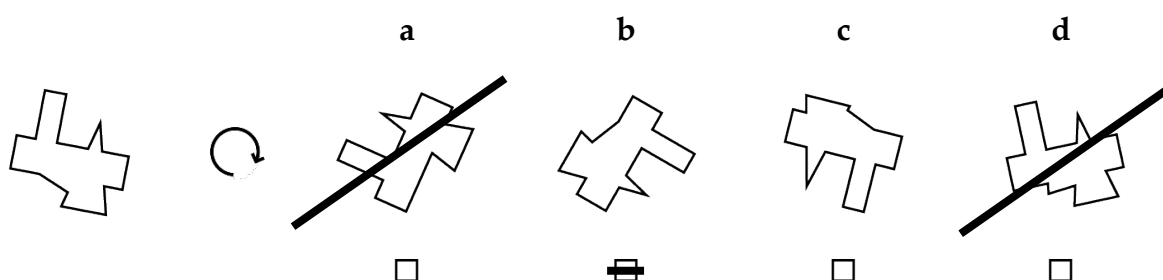
**b** is wrong because of the position of the black hexagon: it does not overlap the rest of the figure by quite enough.

29.



**c** doesn't have enough twists, while **b** has the cross-lines running in the wrong direction. **d** is a reflection, as well as a rotation.

30.



The crucial part of the figure is between the lower part (base) of the triangle and the rectangle. **a** and **d** are completely wrong here.

Looking carefully at **c**, this isn't quite right either: the 'linking part' takes up too much space.

Here are four groups of words:

A	B	C	D
passion	tree	egg	Peter
fear	grass	shoe	Rome

Next to each of the following words, write the letter name of the group to which it belongs.

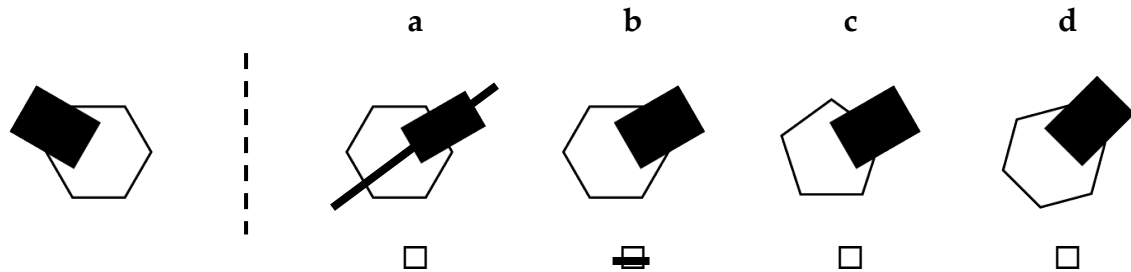
- |              |             |                 |             |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 31. puddle C | 32. mat C   | 33. obstinacy A | 34. place C |
| 35. Mike D   | 36. bush B  | 37. Poland D    | 38. jar C   |
| 39. crop B   | 40. tooth C |                 |             |

**A** lists nouns for feelings or states of mind. **B** lists nouns related to plants. **C** lists other nouns. **D** lists proper nouns (names).



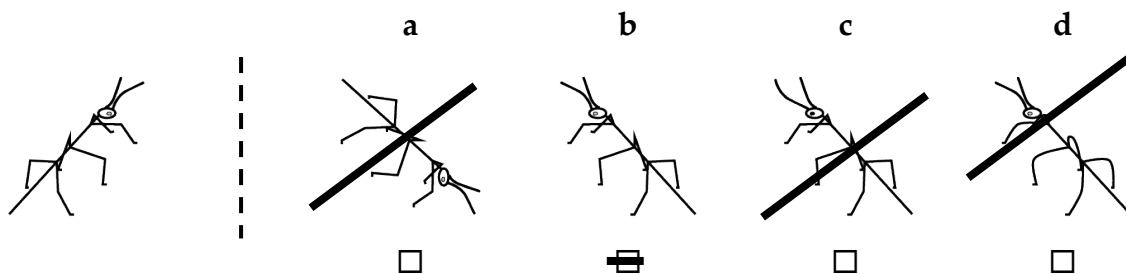
Choose the figure on the right which is a reflection in the dotted line of the figure on the left.

41.



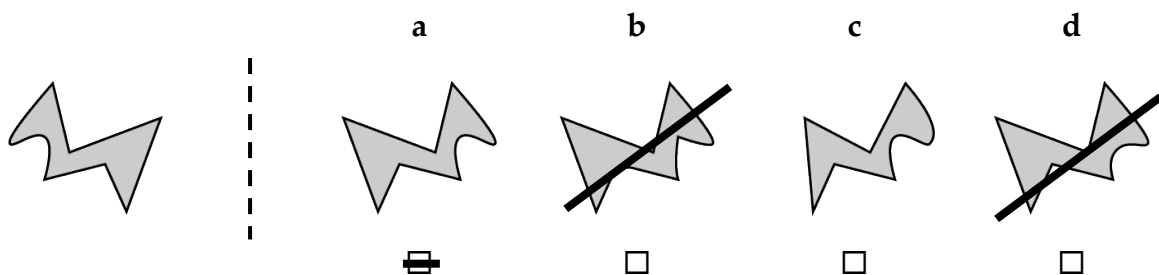
c has a pentagon, not a hexagon. d is at the wrong angle.

42.



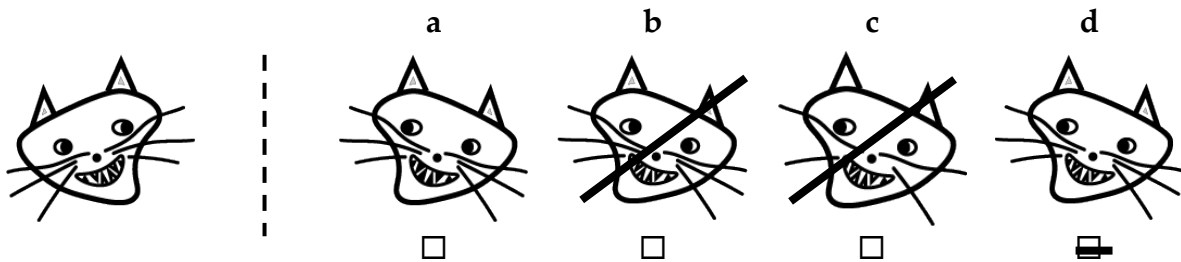
c has one antenna bent the wrong way. d has bent (rather than sharp) knees.

43.



Look carefully at what is bent and what is straight or angular.

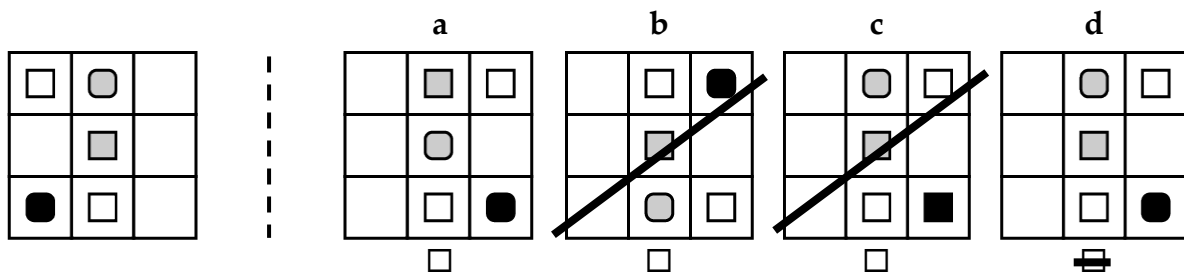
44.



Two can be ruled out because of the eyes and the whiskers.

You have to look *very* carefully at **a** to see that the teeth are wrong.

45.



The bottom row black shape readily eliminates **b** and **c**, while the middle and top-middle shapes rule out **a**.

**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.**

46. Why does he have unusually spaced eyelashes?

cede

If you don't see any words that you know ("cede" is not obvious), be prepared to return to the question – leaving your best guesses underlined, so that you don't need to start from scratch.

In the end, you may need to choose between possible words that you don't know, picking the option that seems most plausible. For instance, I imagine that "cede" might win over "eshe" and "aves", even if you don't confidently know which of these is a real word.

- |     |  |             |
|-----|--|-------------|
| 47. | You seem to <u>be struggling</u> , but don't give up!    | <u>best</u> |
| 48. | The field was thick with flowers <u>and</u> butterflies. | <u>sand</u> |
| 49. | Ask him what he is going <u>to need</u> .                | <u>tone</u> |
| 50. | She perched on the pool's flat <u>rim</u> .              | <u>trim</u> |

Remember to work through each gap systematically. Looking at the first gap in 50, you should think about SHEP, HEPE and EPER, before moving on to the next gap. With practice, this process will become very quick.

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END

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