

Introduction

The **English Progress Papers** provide structured activities that increase in difficulty throughout the series, developing your knowledge and skills in English. Use the series to prepare for school entrance examinations, to improve your English knowledge and to practise a range of English skills.

How to use this book

There are six papers in this book. Each contains 85 questions, worth up to 100 marks. A single paper may take between 45 and 75 minutes to complete, and you might need two or more sessions to complete one paper.

For exam preparation, revision and all-round practice, work through the papers in order. Ask an adult helper to mark each paper, correct mistakes and explain where you went wrong. To practise a topic that you find challenging, work through selected activities in order of difficulty using the **Topics chart**, which is free to download from the Schofield & Sims website.

What does each paper contain?

Each paper is divided into three parts. Work carefully through each one and do not rush.

The **English skills** questions focus on key areas of grammar, punctuation and spelling and help you to avoid common mistakes – in the use of apostrophes, for example. These questions will also expand your vocabulary, particularly if you incorporate the new words and phrases that you learn in to your own written work.

The multiple-choice **Comprehension** questions are not as easy as they look. Always read both the passage and the question carefully, particularly if all the answer options have some truth in them. One answer is always more accurate than the others, but careful thinking is needed to identify it.

The **Short writing task** is not designed as an extended piece of work and you will be able to complete some tasks in 20 to 30 minutes. Others may inspire you to write for longer – if you need more space, use separate sheets of paper. When working for a test or exam, restrict yourself to 30 minutes' writing, particularly in the last three months before the test. For ideas on how to tackle the different kinds of task, see **Short writing task tips**, which is free to download from the Schofield & Sims website.

Answers

The adult who is helping you will use the pull-out answer booklet to mark your work. If you get some questions wrong, check your answers against the correct answers given. Take time, with a dictionary and/or with an adult, to learn and remember why the answer given is correct. When checking a comprehension question, re-read carefully both the passage and the question and carefully think it through.

Use the **Progress chart** at the back of this book to record your marks and measure progress.

Downloads

Free downloads are available from the Schofield & Sims website (www.schofieldandsims.co.uk/free-downloads), including the resources mentioned above, extra practice material, guidance on alternative spellings, and a glossary of English skills vocabulary.

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