

Introduction

Verbal reasoning is language-based problem-solving. It involves thinking about words, letters, patterns and **sequences**. Verbal reasoning skills are useful for school tests, such as the 11+. There are many types of verbal reasoning questions – covering, for example, spelling, word meanings, maths and code-breaking. The question types in this book are among the most common. Verbal reasoning skills are important in other aspects of life too. Practising these skills expands your **vocabulary**, improves your spelling and develops your ability to use **logic**.

The topics are grouped into seven sections:

- word and letter patterns
- vocabulary
- grammar
- spelling
- cloze
- number patterns
- problem-solving

You might not be tested on all these topics in your 11+ exam, but it is important to revise them in case they do come up.

If you are sitting an 11+ exam set by CEM, the verbal reasoning sections of your exam may include some comprehension questions. You will be asked to read a passage and answer some questions about it. Explanations and examples of comprehension questions can be found in the **11+ English Study and Practice Book**, which is also available from Schofield & Sims.

How to use this book

Before you start using this book, write your name in the box on the first page. Then decide how to begin. If you want a complete course in verbal reasoning, work right through the book. If you want to find out about a particular type of question, use the Contents page or the Index to find the pages you need. Whichever way you choose to use the book, don't try to cover too much at once – it is better to work in short bursts.

When you are ready to begin, find some rough paper. You may find this useful for your workings out. As you make a start, look out for the symbols below, which mark different parts of the text. Find out about words in **grey** by turning to the Glossary on pages 159 to 160.



Activities

These are the questions that you should complete after you have read the explanations and examples for each question type. After you have worked through all the questions, turn to pages 142 to 158 to check your answers. If you got any of the answers wrong, read the topic again, and then have another go at the questions. When you are sure that you understand a topic, tick the box beside it on the Contents page.



Tip

This text gives you helpful tips on how to tackle a particular question type.



Important

This text gives you useful information, rules and techniques you should remember.

At the end of the book, there is a 1-hour Practice test. You should attempt this once you are sure that you understand all the question types.