



The Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex

**ENGLISH PAPER MAIN TEST 1  
FOR 2021 ENTRY**

Name:.....

Candidate Number: .....

Primary School: .....

Boy or Girl: .....

Date of Birth:.....

Today's Date: .....

Test Taken At:.....

**READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY:**

This test consists of three parts:

- A COMPREHENSION (30 minutes plus 10 minutes reading time)
- APPLIED REASONING QUESTIONS (10 minutes)
- CONTINUOUS WRITING (20 minutes)

TOTAL TIME: 1 hour 10 minutes

**AFTER THE FIRST 10 MINUTES YOU DO NOT NEED TO WAIT TO BE TOLD TO CARRY ON TO THE NEXT SECTION.**

1. **Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.**
2. Inside the booklet is a separate passage. Read the passage and questions carefully when you are told to do so. **You have 10 minutes.** Then answer the questions in the booklet.
3. Think carefully about the passage and its meaning.
4. Work quickly but carefully through the questions.
5. The number of marks available for each section is indicated in the right hand margin.
6. Correct spelling and grammar will be awarded marks.
7. Punctuation should be clear and exact.
8. Where you are asked to choose between a number of responses choose always the most appropriate response.
9. If you finish with time to spare, please remember to check your work.
10. **Once the test has begun you should not ask questions about the test.**

NOT TO BE FILLED IN BY PUPIL		
PAGE	SCORE	
	R	W
1 (8)		
2 (6)		
3 (11)		
4 (6)		
5 (9)		
6 (5)		
TOTAL (45)		
INITIALS OF MARKER(S)		

**REMEMBER:** this is not a test of memory. You can look back at the passage to check your answers as many times as you want.

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**SPEND ABOUT 30 MINUTES ON THIS SECTION.**

**SECTION ONE**

Please do not write in this space

1. (a) Does the narrator's stairway seem well designed?

4 marks

.....  
.....

(b) Give two reasons for your answer. Write your explanation in proper sentences.

● .....  
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● .....  
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2. Describe the wallpaper on the stairway.

1 mark

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3. What two reasons does Uttley give to explain why the narrator is sitting on the stairs? Write your answer in proper sentences.

3 marks

● .....  
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● .....  
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R  
W  
(8)





4. Uttley writes: 'I was suddenly aware how quiet it was, never a sound, I might have been the only person in the world. Even the clock stopped ticking, and the mice ceased rustling'.

2 marks

Please do not write in this space

What ideas does Uttley communicate to the reader by making the narrator's world suddenly go so quiet?

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5. As soon as Uttley has established how quiet the narrator's house has become, she has the lady appear coming 'downstairs from the upper floor'.

2 marks

What does Uttley suggest to the reader about the lady by having her appear in the sudden quiet?

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6. Which two of the narrator's five senses work when the narrator sees the lady on the stairway?

2 marks

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.....

R  
W  
(6)





7. Write a synonym (a word or a few words with the same meaning as the word used by Uttley in the text) for the following words.

5 marks

Please do not write in this space

For example: Ceased (line 9) .....Stopped

- a) Tucked (line 5).....
- b) Sprang (line 12).....
- c) Grave (line 13) .....
- d) Pierce (line 14).....
- e) Pallor (line 19).....

8. (a) Write three actions that Uttley has the narrator do when the lady appears.

3 marks

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

(b) Do these actions suggest that the lady frightens the narrator? Explain your answer in a proper sentence.

3 marks

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R  
W  
(11)





9. Uttley writes that although the lady's skirts 'took all the stairway,' the narrator 'never felt them touch me, and this gave me a curious sensation'.

3 marks

Please do not write in this space

What ideas does Uttley communicate to the reader about the lady when she writes this phrase? Explain your answer in proper sentences.

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10. On line 21, Uttley writes that the narrator leant over the stair rail to watch the lady go downstairs and then 'suddenly the lady was gone'. What immediately changes after the lady has gone? Please explain your answer in proper sentences.

3 marks

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R  
W  
(6)





11. From lines 21-31, Uttley has the narrator do a lot of action.  
Tick 4 boxes that accurately match the action the narrator does.

4 marks

Please do not write in this space

- A. The narrator watches the lady go into the sitting room .....
- B. The narrator sets the clock going again .....
- C. The narrator whistles .....
- D. The narrator runs downstairs .....
- E. The narrator is surprised to find the sitting room empty .....
- F. The narrator asks her mother where the lady is .....
- G. The narrator thinks she has imagined the lady .....
- H. The narrator thinks she has seen the lady .....

12. (a) Read lines 32-36 again. Does Uttley suggest that the mother does believe or does not believe that the narrator saw a lady on the stairway?

1 mark

.....

.....

.....

(b) Explain two ways in which Uttley has the mother behave that supports your answer.

4 marks

- .....
- .....
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- .....
- .....
- .....

**GO TO NEXT PAGE FOR APPLIED REASONING QUESTIONS.**

R  
W  
(9)

**GO TO NEXT PAGE**





**SPEND ABOUT 10 MINUTES ON THIS SECTION.**

**SECTION TWO**

**APPLIED REASONING** (You should spend about 10 minutes on this section)

Please do not write in this space

Each of the next five questions involves replacing missing letters. In each pair, the letters removed from the two words are the same. The two words for each question have a similar meaning.

For example: h( )us( ) and h( )m( )  
 should be completed h(o)us(e) and h(o)m(e)  
 the missing letters for this pair were o then e

**Question 1**

1 mark

t( )l( ) and spe( )( )

**Question 2**

1 mark

( )urpr( )( )e and a( )ton( )( )h

**Question 3**

1 mark

dri( )( ) and a( )( )nue

**Question 4**

1 mark

( )sc( )p( ) and ( )v( )d( )

**Question 5**

1 mark

( )( )( )ta( )t and ( )( )( )ne( )t

**GO TO SEPARATE BOOKLET ON YOUR DESK TO ANSWER THE CONTINUOUS WRITING QUESTIONS.**

R  
W

(5)





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# CSSE

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## ENGLISH

### 10 MINUTES READING TIME 60 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE TEST

Suggested timing for candidates:

READING TIME:.....10 minutes  
SECTION ONE: COMPREHENSION.....30 minutes  
SECTION TWO: APPLIED REASONING.....10 minutes

*Go to the separate booklet on your desk to answer the continuous writing questions.*

SECTION THREE: CONTINUOUS WRITING.....20 minutes

Read the passage that starts overleaf carefully when you are told to do so. After ten minutes has ended you will have 60 minutes to complete the test. Answer the questions which are on the following pages.

The passage is from 'A Traveller In Time' by Alison Uttley.

To the left of each line you will see the lines have been numbered.  
This will help you when you are answering the questions.

*The passage used is from 'A Traveller In Time',  
a novel written by Alison Uttley  
and published in 1939.  
Reproduced with permission of  
The Society of Authors as the Literary  
Representative of the Estate of Alison Uttley.*

**GO TO NEXT PAGE**



*'A Traveller In Time' was written by Alison Uttley in 1939. In this passage, from near the beginning of the book, the young narrator is sitting alone on the stairway at home as evening falls.*

---

**1** Ours was a steep, crooked stair, with a handrail on one side, very narrow, with rooms leading  
**2** off it so suddenly that it was easy to fall headlong as one stepped from a doorway. We had  
**3** wallpaper with leaves on it, like a green wood in spring, and I used to sit on the stairs,  
**4** pretending I was in a forest far away from London with birds singing round me. I was sitting  
**5** there one evening, with my feet tucked under me, in the blue dusk, waiting for the  
**6** lamplighter<sup>1</sup> to come whistling down the street to bring a gleam to the stairway. There was a  
**7** streetlamp near, and this shone brilliantly through the window over the front door.

**8** I was suddenly aware how quiet it was, never a sound, I might have been the only  
**9** person in the world. Even the clock stopped ticking, and the mice ceased rustling.  
**10** I turned my head and saw a lady coming downstairs from the upper floor. She was dressed in  
**11** a black dress which swept round her like a cloud, and at her neck was a narrow white frill  
**12** which shone like ivory. Her eyes were very bright, and blue as violets. I sprang to my feet and  
**13** smiled up at her, into the beautiful grave face she bent towards me. She gave an answering  
**14** smile, and her deep-set eyes seemed to pierce me, and I caught my breath as I stood aside to  
**15** let her pass. I never heard a footstep, she was there before I was aware. She went by as I  
**16** leaned against the wall, and I pressed myself against the paper to leave room for her full  
**17** floating skirts which took all the stairway. I never felt them touch me, and this gave me a  
**18** curious sensation. Soundlessly she swayed down the stairway, and I stood watching her,  
**19** smelling the sweet, faint odour of her dress, seeing the pallor of her hands which held her  
**20** ruffled skirts, yet heard nothing at all.

**21** I leaned over the rail to watch her, and suddenly she was gone. The clock ticked  
**22** loudly, the sounds of the street came to my ears, the lamplighter's whistle, clear and round,  
**23** fluted through the air, and the bright gleam of the gas lamp danced through the window upon  
**24** the leaf-patterned wall. I ran downstairs and pushed open the door into the sitting-room,

**25** expecting to see her there. The room was empty, and I went thoughtfully down to the  
**26** kitchen where my mother was cooking our evening meal and asked her about the lady.

**27** 'There is no one, child,' she exclaimed. 'You've imagined her. It is easy to think you  
**28** see someone in the dusk with the flickering streetlights falling on the walls. It was the  
**29** shadow of somebody in the street perhaps.'

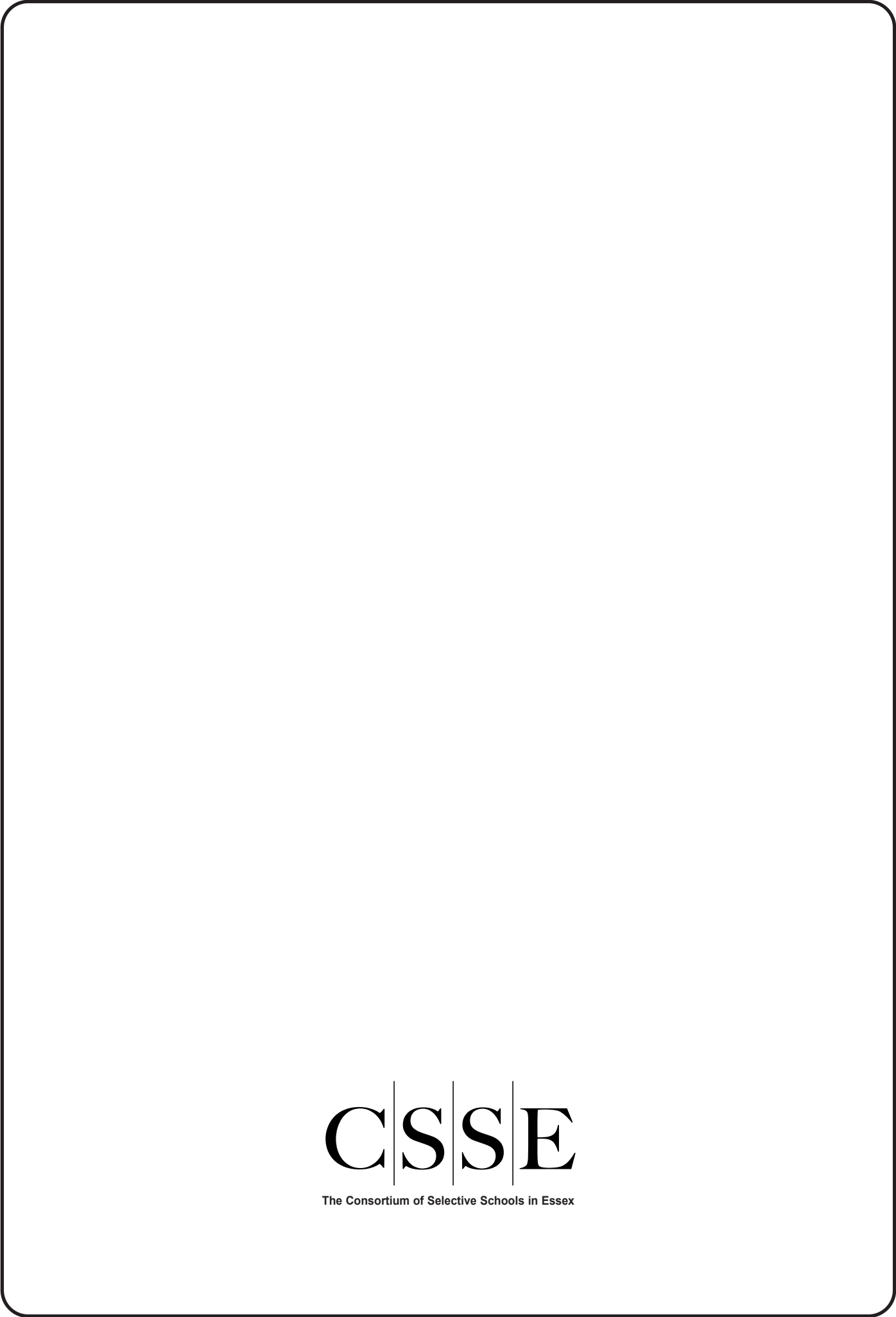
**30** I was positive I had seen the lady and I described her little pleated frill and the way  
**31** her skirts hung over a quilted petticoat.

**32** Mother was very quiet, as if she were thinking what to say next. Then she changed  
**33** the conversation, asking me if we would like to make treacle toffee that night, for soon it  
**34** would be Guy Fawkes's Day, and we should have fireworks as usual in our little paved yard.

**35** I thought no more of the lady, nor did I see her again, but my mother looked at me  
**36** sometimes with a curious glance, as if she were anxious about me.

<sup>1</sup> *A lamplighter was a person employed to light the streetlights in the olden days before electric lamps were invented.*

**END OF PASSAGE**



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