

AQE Common Entrance Assessment (CEA) – English Support (2021)

This document seeks to provide help and guidance for teachers and parents on the English content of CEA papers in 2021. Examples provided are for illustrative purposes only.

The English content to be covered for the Common Entrance Assessment is informed by CCEA's Northern Ireland Curriculum specification for the Area of Learning: **Language and Literacy**.

Questions will assess the **Reading** and **Writing** strands of the Programme of Study for **Language and Literacy**. The level of difficulty of the questions will not exceed that indicated for Level 5.

The **format** of the English elements of CEA papers is as follows:

Poem 1 followed by 7 reading/comprehension/literacy content questions;

Passage 1 – a basic skills passage (lines numbered on the right) followed by 5 spelling, punctuation and grammar questions;

Poem 2 followed by 7 reading/comprehension/literacy content questions;

Passage 2 – a prose passage followed by 7 reading/comprehension/literacy content questions.

In 2021, the CEA papers will assess aspects of language listed in the Literacy Content section below, in addition to reading/comprehension questions.

Literacy Content

Spelling – use a variety of skills to spell words correctly by identifying commonly misspelt words or misuse of homophones.

Punctuation – correct use of the following punctuation only: full stops, commas (*lists and speech punctuation*), question marks, exclamation marks, apostrophes (*contraction or singular/plural possession*) and quotation/speech marks.

Alphabetical Order – arrange words in alphabetical order.

Rhymes – identify words in a poem which rhyme.

Grammar

Adjectives – identify an adjective in a sentence.

Adverbs – identify an adverb in a sentence.

Capital Letters – identify when capital letters should be used.

Nouns – identify a noun in a sentence.

Opposites – identify the opposite of a given word.

Singular & Plural Nouns – identify the singular/plural form of a given noun.

Tenses – identify present tense, past tense and participles of verbs, for example, *swim (present tense), swam (past tense), swum (past participle), swimming (present participle)*.

Verbs – identify a verb in a sentence.

The following aspects of language will also be assessed in CEA papers. When questions are set on these aspects of language, their meaning will be defined and an example provided, if appropriate.

Alliteration – identify an example of alliteration in a sentence. *See example* below.*

Antonyms – identify the antonym of a given word.

Comparing adjectives – form **comparative** and **superlative** adjectives to compare two or more nouns, for example, *tall, taller, tallest; beautiful, more/most beautiful.*

Compound words – form a compound word from two smaller words.

Homophones – identify the correct homophone in a sentence. *See example*** below.*

Prefixes – add a prefix to a given word to make a new word.

Proper adjective/noun – form a proper adjective/noun from a given word, for example, *Russia/Russian; Chinese/China.*

Similes – identify an example of a simile in a sentence. *See example** below.*

Suffixes – add a suffix to a given word to make a new word.

Synonyms – identify the synonym of a given word.

***Example of a question on alliteration based on Q56 from 2013 Paper 2.**

Alliteration is the **repetition of consonants** at the **start** of a **series of words**. In **paragraph four**, the **two-word** phrase, ‘*fierce forces*’ is an example of **alliteration**. In **paragraph two**, there is also a **two-word** phrase which is an example of **alliteration**. Write this **two-word** phrase in the space below.

Twirling, twisting

****Example of a question on similes based on Q54 from 2012 Paper 3.**

A **simile** is used to compare one thing to another using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’. In **paragraph three**, the **three-word** phrase, “*felt like jelly*” is an example of a **simile**. In **paragraph three**, there is also a **four-word** phrase which is an example of a **simile**. Write this **four-word** phrase in the space below.

beat like a drum

*****Example of a question on homophones based on Q41 from 2013 Paper 2.**

A **homophone** is a word which sounds the same as another word but has a different meaning. The word *see* is used in **verse one**. It is often mistaken for its **homophone** *sea*. **Circle the correct word** in each pair of **homophones** in the sentences below.

I **here** **hear** that there **our** **are** very few clean beaches in this area. I love to visit the seaside and take a walk along the **peer** **pier**.

Further examples of questions on Literacy Content can be found in the CEA past papers (2009 – 2013) available on the AQE website.