

Year 9 Selective Entry (Victoria)

Free Sample Practice Paper

Practice for the Victorian selective entry exam (Year 9 entry, sat in Year 8)

How to use this paper. This is a short taster of the five areas commonly reported for the Victorian exam: Reading, Mathematics, Quantitative Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning and Writing. There are 4 or 5 multiple-choice questions in each of the first four areas (17 in total) plus one writing task. Work in a quiet room with a timer and rough paper. No calculator for Mathematics or Quantitative Reasoning. Suggested time: about 30 minutes for the 17 multiple-choice questions and 20 minutes for the writing task. Do not check the answers (last pages) until you have finished.

Important. This is original practice material written by PracticeExamPro. It is not an official paper, is not affiliated with ACER or the Victorian Department of Education, and does not contain real exam questions. Section names, question counts and timings in the real exam are set by ACER and can change each year, so always confirm the current format on the ACER selective entry website (selectiveentry.acer.org).

Section 1: Reading

Read the passage, then answer questions 1 to 4.

The Lighthouse Ledger

For forty years, Marta Ellison climbed the 112 steps of the Cape Verity lighthouse each evening, and each evening she wrote a single line in the ledger: the weather, the ships she had seen, the state of the lamp. Visitors who peeked at the pages found them dull. "Wind north-west, moderate. One trawler. Lamp steady." Day after day, the same plain sentences.

When the lighthouse was automated in 1988, the ledgers were donated to a university, where a climate researcher made a discovery. Marta's unadorned entries formed one of the most continuous weather records on the southern coast. What she had treated as routine, almost a chore, had become evidence. She never learned this; she had died long before anyone opened the ledgers.

Her niece read the researcher's letter aloud at the kitchen table and paused after the final line. "She would have said it was nothing," she said quietly, "and then she would have kept writing."

1. Why did visitors find the ledger entries dull?

- A) Marta wrote them carelessly.
- B) They recorded the same kinds of facts in plain, repeated language.
- C) The handwriting was difficult to read.
- D) They were mostly about unimportant ships.

2. In the passage, "routine" suggests that Marta saw her entries as:

- A) a source of pride
- B) a scientific project
- C) an ordinary part of her duties
- D) a message for future readers

3. Why did the ledgers become valuable to the researcher?

- A) They were written in an elegant style.
- B) They described the automation of the lighthouse.
- C) They formed a long, unbroken record of the weather.
- D) They were the oldest books the university owned.

4. What does the niece's final comment suggest about Marta?

- A) She was modest and committed to her work.
- B) She regretted not becoming a scientist.
- C) She disliked being watched by visitors.
- D) She hoped her records would one day be famous.

Section 2: Mathematics (no calculator)

5. Three quarters of a number is 54. What is five sixths of the same number?

- A) 45
- B) 60
- C) 65
- D) 75

6. The length of a rectangle is twice its width. Its perimeter is 54 cm. What is its area?

- A) 81 cm²
- B) 162 cm²
- C) 243 cm²
- D) 324 cm²

7. Solve for x: $5x - 7 = 2x + 14$

- A) $x = 3$
- B) $x = 5$
- C) $x = 7$
- D) $x = 21$

8. The mean of five numbers is 12. Four of the numbers are 8, 10, 15 and 11. What is the fifth number?

- A) 12
- B) 14
- C) 16
- D) 18

9. A jacket is discounted by 20%. The reduced price is then discounted by a further 10%. What single discount is equivalent to both?

- A) 25%
- B) 28%
- C) 30%
- D) 32%

Section 3: Quantitative Reasoning (no calculator)

10. What is the next number in the sequence? 2, 6, 18, 54, ?

- A) 72
- B) 108
- C) 162
- D) 216

11. What is the next number in the sequence? 3, 8, 15, 24, 35, ?

- A) 44
- B) 46
- C) 48
- D) 50

12. Two shapes stand for numbers. $\star + \star + \bullet = 17$ and $\star + \bullet + \bullet = 16$. What is the value of $\star$?

- A) 4
- B) 5
- C) 6
- D) 7

13. Six machines make 120 items in 10 minutes. All machines work at the same steady rate. How many items would 9 machines make in 5 minutes?

- A) 60
- B) 75
- C) 90
- D) 180

Section 4: Verbal Reasoning

14. Cautious is to reckless as frugal is to:

- A) thrifty
- B) careful
- C) extravagant
- D) poor

15. Which word does not belong with the others?

- A) sparrow
- B) eagle
- C) bat
- D) magpie

16. In a code, BAKER is written as CBLFS (each letter moves one place forward in the alphabet). How is DRIVE written in the same code?

- A) ESJWF
- B) EQJWF
- C) CQHUD
- D) ESKXG

17. Read the statements. "Every debater at the school is a good public speaker." "Some good public speakers are musicians." Which conclusion must be true?

- A) Every musician is a debater.
- B) Some debaters are musicians.
- C) Every debater is a good public speaker.
- D) No musician is a debater.

Section 5: Writing (suggested time 20 minutes)

Choose **one** task. Plan for 3 minutes, write for 14 minutes, then use the last 3 minutes to edit.

Task A (persuasive): "We learn more from our failures than from our successes." Do you agree? Write a persuasive piece for your school newsletter.

Task B (imaginative): Write a story that begins with the sentence: *The last thing I expected to find in the old toolbox was a letter addressed to me.*

Self-check: clear opening and ending; one idea per paragraph; varied sentence length; precise words rather than "very" and "nice"; spelling and punctuation checked.

Answer Key and Explanations

Section 1: Reading

1. **B.** The passage says the entries were "the same plain sentences" day after day. Nothing suggests carelessness or poor handwriting.
2. **C.** "Routine, almost a chore" tells us Marta saw the entries as a normal part of her duties, not as a project or a source of pride.
3. **C.** The researcher found "one of the most continuous weather records". Its value was length and consistency, not style.
4. **A.** "She would have said it was nothing, and then she would have kept writing" shows modesty and dedication.

Section 2: Mathematics

5. **B (60).** If $\frac{3}{4}$ of the number is 54, then $\frac{1}{4}$ is 18 and the number is 72. Five sixths of 72 is 60.
6. **B (162 cm²).** Let the width be w . The perimeter is $2(w + 2w) = 6w = 54$, so $w = 9$ and the length is 18. Area = $9 \times 18 = 162$.
7. **C ($x = 7$).** Subtract $2x$ from both sides: $3x - 7 = 14$. Add 7: $3x = 21$, so $x = 7$.
8. **C (16).** Five numbers with a mean of 12 sum to 60. The four known numbers sum to 44, so the fifth is 16.
9. **B (28%).** After the discounts the price is $0.8 \times 0.9 = 0.72$ of the original, so the total discount is 28%, not 30%.

Section 3: Quantitative Reasoning

10. **C (162).** Each number is multiplied by 3: $54 \times 3 = 162$.
11. **C (48).** The terms are $n^2 - 1$ for $n = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$, so the next is $7^2 - 1 = 48$. (Differences: 5, 7, 9, 11, 13.)
12. **C (6).** Subtract the second equation from the first: $\star - \bullet = 1$. So $\star = \bullet + 1$. Then $2(\bullet + 1) + \bullet = 17$, so $\bullet = 5$ and $\star = 6$. Check: $6 + 5 + 5 = 16$.
13. **C (90).** One machine makes $120 \div (6 \times 10) = 2$ items per minute. Nine machines for 5 minutes: $9 \times 5 \times 2 = 90$.

Section 4: Verbal Reasoning

14. **C (extravagant).** Cautious and reckless are opposites, so we need the opposite of frugal. Extravagant (wasteful with money) fits; thrifty is a synonym.
15. **bat (C).** A bat is a mammal. The other three are birds.
16. **A (ESJWF).** $D \rightarrow E$, $R \rightarrow S$, $I \rightarrow J$, $V \rightarrow W$, $E \rightarrow F$.
17. **C.** Only the first statement is guaranteed to be true as written. We cannot tell whether any debater is a musician, because the musicians among the public speakers might not be debaters.

Writing: how to mark yourself

Give yourself a mark out of 3 for each of: **ideas** (a clear point of view or plot), **structure** (opening, development, ending), **language** (word choice, sentence variety) and **accuracy** (spelling, punctuation, grammar). A strong piece takes a clear position early (or sets up a clear problem), develops it with specific examples or events, and ends with purpose. Ask a teacher or parent to read it aloud: places where they stumble usually need editing.

What next?

Count your multiple-choice score out of 17. Below 9: revisit the question types untimed before sitting timed papers. 9 to 13: practise the sections where marks were lost. 14 or more: move to longer, timed papers to build stamina. Find more Year 9 selective entry guidance, and full practice bundles, at **practiceexampro.com/year-9-selective-school-test-victoria**.