

Paper A 2016

# ENGLISH 11+



Name: .....

Candidate Number: .....

Seat Number: .....

You have 40 minutes in which to complete this paper.

Focus on using correct spelling and punctuation.

Make sure that your work is original.

Read the questions carefully.

Total marks available are 50.

**Read the following extract carefully and then answer the questions that follow.**

Are you dreaming of a White Christmas? Snow at Christmas is deep-seated in British culture. Many of us long for the likes of the scenes depicted on traditional Christmas cards and in works like Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' or 'Pickwick Papers'. The interest in snowy Christmases has its origins in the colder climate of the period 1550—1850 when Britain was in the grip of a 'Little Ice Age'. Winters were particularly persistent and severe – 1813/14 was the last winter that a 'frost fair' was held on the River Thames in London.

For most parts of the United Kingdom, Christmas comes at the beginning of the season for snow. Wintry weather is more likely in the deepening cold of early January. White Christmases were more frequent in the 18th and 19th centuries, even more so before the change of calendar in 1752 which effectively brought Christmas day back by 12 days. What is a White Christmas? For many people, a White Christmas means a complete covering of snow, ideally falling between midnight and midday on 25 December. However, the definition used most widely, notably by those placing and taking bets, is for a single snow flake (perhaps among a mixed shower of rain and snow) to be observed falling in the 24 hours of 25 December.

Christmas weather – will it or won't it snow? The likelihood of snow depends on many factors, mainly latitude and height above sea level. Not all of us live in the Scottish Highlands and falls of sleet or snow over low-lying areas are usually confined to between November and April. However, there have been isolated falls as late as June. Even if snowfalls in December are possible, there is no guarantee that snow will 'stick'. On days when snow is falling, the temperature of the air above the ground sometimes remains above freezing — so the snow does not settle for long. Climate change has brought higher average temperatures over land and sea and this generally reduces the chances of a White Christmas. However, the natural variability of the weather will not stop cold, snowy winters happening in the future. In fact, in terms of widespread sleet/snow falling across the UK on Christmas Day, between 1971 and 1992 there was only one year (1980), whereas in the years 1993 to 2004 there were six such occasions.

**Extract taken from [metoffice.gov.uk](http://metoffice.gov.uk) Fact sheet No.5.pdf**

1. Why do you think that many of us want it to snow at Christmas? (2)

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2. What is meant by a "Little Ice Age"? (2)

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3. What effect did the change of calendar in 1752 have on the probability of a White Christmas? (2)

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4. What effect does the use of rhetorical questions in this extract have? (2)

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5. Give one reason why it is more likely to snow in the Scottish Highlands than it is in London. (2)

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6. What is meant by snow *sticking*? (2)

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7. Pick out **two adverbs** from the extract that mean *especially*? (2)

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8. Pick out a **noun** from the extract that means *probability*. (1)

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9. Pick out an **adjective** from the extract that means *extensive*. (1)

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10. Write a sentence about snow using alliteration. (3)

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11. Write a metaphor using snow as the subject. (3)

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12. Write a simile about snow. (3)

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13. Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences long) in which snow is personified. (6)

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