

Table to show the differences and similarities between the GL and CEM exams

	Differences	Similarities
Maths	<p>GL 50 minute paper for 50 questions</p> <p>CEM Shorter timed sections, about 25 minutes</p> <p>GL 33% of the total mark in Salisbury</p> <p>CEM 25% of total mark in Salisbury</p> <p>GL multiple choice</p> <p>CEM sometimes you write the number as well as using multiple choice</p>	<p>All Key Stage 2 Maths topics.</p> <p>Questions are presented in a problem based format</p> <p>Core skills need to be razor sharp, the daily maths sheet on my website will keep these up to scratch</p> <p>You are not expected to finish.</p> <p>You will need written workings which will not be marked</p> <p>You need to be fast and accurate</p>
English/Verbal	<p>GL 50 minute paper for 80 questions in Verbal Reasoning and 45 minutes for about 50 questions in the English (the number of questions varies)</p> <p>CEM Shorter timed sections</p> <p>GL 66% of mark in Salisbury (but closer to 50% when you remove the abstract thinking element)</p> <p>CEM 50% of mark in Salisbury</p>	<p>Both exam boards will have a comprehension.</p> <p>Both exam boards require a good and broad vocabulary</p> <p>Both exam boards look for good spelling</p> <p>Both exam boards want good punctuation</p> <p>Both exam boards use cloze tests</p> <p>Both exam boards require experience of different written styles</p> <p>Both exam boards want a good grasp of grammar</p>

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Abstract thinking	<p>GL A couple of Non Verbal questions will usually turn up in the Maths Paper. Mostly, abstract thinking is tested using letter codes and will appear in the Verbal Paper. These are cheap and quick questions to produce. Give or take, these account for about 15% - 20% of the overall mark in Salisbury</p> <p>CEM use Non Verbal questions. These are expensive and time consuming to produce. They will have their own sections called “pictures”. These will make-up 25% of the mark in Salisbury.</p>	<p>The children need to be able to follow procedure and complete these questions quickly and not spend ages inventing an original method for each question. Then they also need to be flexible enough that they can apply their learnt techniques to new situations. This requires practice at being out of their comfort zone.</p> <p>The skills required for both picture puzzles and letter puzzles are:</p> <p>Counting Symmetry Rotation Recognising patterns of movement and accumulation Systematic use of workings and elimination.</p>
General Skills	<p>GL To concentrate for long periods</p> <p>CEM To break concentration</p> <p>GL instructions given by a person</p> <p>CEM instructions given by a CD</p>	<p>To read carefully</p> <p>To exhibit flexible thinking</p> <p>Listen and follow instructions accurately</p> <p>Interpret information</p> <p>To be able to process a question and move on with a clear mind</p>

	Differences	Similarities
The exam morning	<p>GL girls at South Wilts: 3 papers</p> <p>CEM boys at Bishops: 2 papers</p> <p>South Wilts: 160 places</p> <p>Bishops: 160 places</p>	<p>Both schools have been unfailingly kind year after year</p> <p>Both schools use many rooms</p> <p>Both schools go out of their way to accommodate the different needs of children who may need extra consideration</p> <p>The children have to:</p> <p>Do as they are told.</p> <p>Check and/or write their names.</p> <p>Mark answer boxes as instructed.</p> <p>Behave.</p> <p>Wear whatever they like.</p> <p>Take in writing equipment and a drink and snacks</p>
Sickness	Sickness happens!	Both schools actively discourage the children from taking the exam when ill and make provision for them at a later date, as appropriate.
Appeals		The 11+ is not an exact science and as such both schools have a robust appeals process to act as a safety net to catch those children who fell through the 11+ process.