
This analysis deals with the first 20 items in Paper 1 of the SRP examination, all of which are of the multiple-choice type.

Items 21 to 40 of the paper focus on the verb (choice of tense, modals and verb patterns generally). The first 20 items in the paper deal with points of grammar and usage not involving verbs, though the particles of phrasal verbs are tested now and then, and one item involving a modal verb crept into the 1977 paper.

The results of the analysis are provided in the Appendix. There is considerable variation in the spread of points being tested from year to year and in their frequency, but a typical profile of the test content emerges as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepositions</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definite &amp; Indefinite articles</td>
<td>2 or 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determiners (some, any, much etc.)</td>
<td>2 or 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question words</td>
<td>2 or 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrasal verb particles</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative pronouns</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflexive or emphatic pronouns</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative/superlative adjectives</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The remaining items range mostly over a variety of clause structures: clauses of time, condition, purpose, result, concession etc. The item tested is usually a conjunction or some other form of clause connector.

A more detailed breakdown of the most regularly recurring categories is given below:

1. Prepositions and Phrasal Verb Particles

   PREPOSITIONS
   (a) Spatial Reference (9)
   (77) get across the river
   (77) climb over the fence

   (78) at the funfair
   (78) into the classroom
   (78) within that space
   (80) in the cupboard
   (80) over the fence
   (80) escaped from
   (80) enter through the window.

   (b) Time (5)
   (77) within two days
   (77) be on time
   (78) during the tour
   (78) within five minutes
   (79) within 15 days.

   (c) Manner (4)
   (77) in direct sunlight
   (78) under the doctor’s care
   (79) with care
   (80) by train

   (d) Tied to a Verb (5)
   (77) quarrel over
   (78) disagree with
   (78) end with
   (78) start on
   (79) call on

   (e) Idiomatic (1)
   (78) on the spot.

   PHRASAL VERB PARTICLES (4)
   (77) bring along (a friend)
   (78) went through (the test paper)
   (80) look after (mother)
   (80) took off (aeroplane)

2. Conjunctions and Clause Connectors
   (a) Time clauses
   (77) before
   (77) while
   (79) while
   (80) since
(b) Conditional
(77) unless
(79) if
(c) Result
(77) (so) . . . . . that
(79) such . . . . (that)
(d) Other
(78) Neither . . . . nor
(80) but
(e) Concession
(78) even though
(f) Purpose
(78) in order to
(g) Noun Clause Construction
(79) that

3. Determiners:
(77) Don’t leave anything behind . . . .
(77) It costs a lot . . . .
(78) . . . too much homework . . . try to complete some . . . .
(78) only a few members . . . not many liked the idea
(79) . . . leaving nothing for the family
(79) . . . a lot of advice but not any real help
(80) . . . we don’t have much time
(80) you’ve some interesting German stamps. Haven’t you any Japanese stamps?
(80) Has anybody seen . . . ? There is someone here who . . . .

4. Definite and Indefinite Articles (including zero article)
(77) . . . an instrument used for measuring — temperatures
(78) — fried rice and an ice-cream.
(79) in the tournament . . . with the championship
(79) . . . to the ancient city of . . . on board an eight–seater Cessna.
(80) . . . an accident . . . at the junction of . . .
(80) on the face . . . to the ground
(80) an officer . . . in the navy.

Note the particular fondness for an, which occurs five times.

5. Question Words
(77) Where’s?
(77) Who?
(77) Who (reported question)
(79) Where (reported question)
(79) Who?
(79) Why’s?
(79) What’s?
(80) (How many?)

Note the need for candidates to distinguish between the forms what and what’s etc.

What overall conclusions can be drawn from these facts? Obviously certain areas recur regularly and there is a marked emphasis on prepositions. What is usually being tested here is the meaning of the preposition rather than any aspect of syntax. The same is true of the phrasal verb particles and to some extent also of question words. The particular test format used in this section of the paper precludes otherwise important aspects of syntax such as word order, though candidates’ understanding of this is presumably revealed in Paper 2, which tests written production. Implications for the Form 2 Scheme of Work: In terms of examination strategy, a candidate who has a thorough grasp of:
— prepositions
— definite and indefinite articles
— determiners some, any, much, many, a lot, a little, a few etc.
— question words
— relative pronouns
— reflexive and emphatic pronouns
— comparative & superlative forms of adjectives
  (including the irregular forms better/best, worse/worst, less/least etc.)
could hope to score over 50% on this part of the paper, which represents 2/7 (or more than 25%) of the paper as a whole.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepositions</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Determiners etc. including indefinite pronouns</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Definite/Indefinite articles (including zero)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Phrasal Verb Particles</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conjunctions-Clause Connectors</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superlative adjectives</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relative pronouns (including indefinite relatives e.g. anywhere)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question tags</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Impersonal /t construction</td>
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<td>Sentence connectors (therefore)</td>
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<td>Modal verbs (assumption: must be)</td>
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<tr>
<td>so = also construction</td>
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