

JUNIOR 5 TEST

READING

- ☺ Read the text from a guidebook. How long does it take to get to Switzerland from the UK by plane, train and car?

By plane:

By train:

By car:

Switzerland

1 Getting there from the UK

The easiest way to get to Switzerland is, of course, to catch a plane. Zurich and Geneva have major international airports and many European flights arrive at Basel every day. Other smaller airports in the south of the country and in the Alps are useful entry points for specific regions.

5 Flying from the UK

From the UK, there are over fifty flights a day to Switzerland, from 12 or more UK airports. British Airways and Swiss have many flights, and the fares are similar to cheap airlines. When you fly with Swiss, they offer everyone unlimited free chocolate!

Because routes and airlines can change quickly, the best thing to do is to check the website of your home airport and/or your destination airport.

Flight time from London is around an hour and a half. From the north of England or Scotland it is two to three hours.

20 Fares

For the cheapest fares, always book online. With cheap airlines, book early (at least two or three weeks in advance). You can sometimes find tickets for £50–£70 return. But remember that these flights are usually only in the middle of the week, early morning or late evening.

And if you cancel your flight, you lose your money.

‘Fly rail luggage’

The Swiss have a great way of taking away some of the stress of travelling by air. For a small cost you can send your luggage direct from the check-in desk at your home airport through to one of seventy or more train stations in Switzerland. That means when you arrive at your destination airport, you don’t need to think about your bags. All you need to do is complete a special green form and attach it to your luggage. Each green label costs about £10. You can usually collect your bag eight hours after your plane lands, depending on the distance of the train station from the airport.

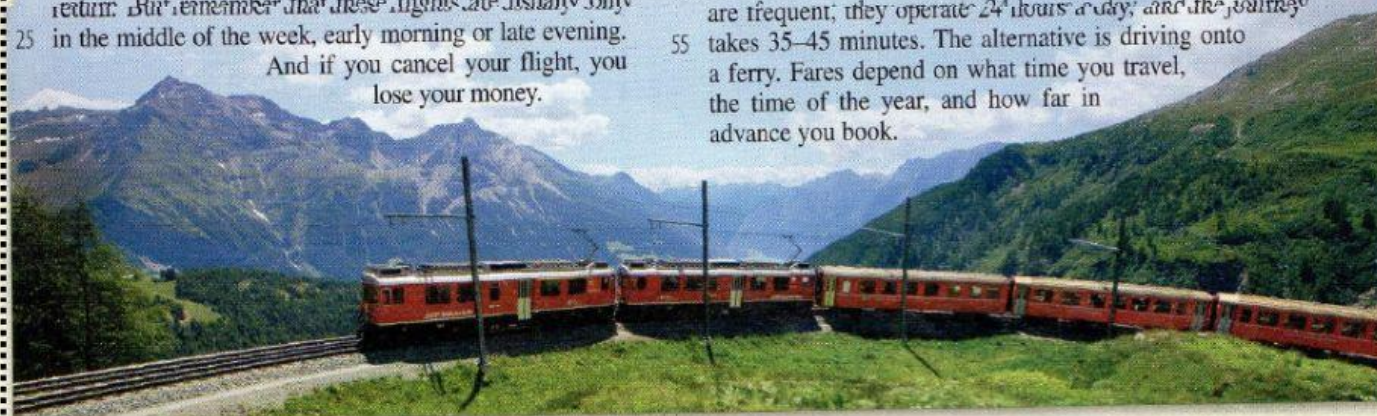
By train from the UK

Travelling to Switzerland by train still has lots of romance – it can be both relaxing and very scenic. But it’s usually more expensive than flying. Time is also a factor – the fastest route from London to Geneva (which still involves changing trains in Paris) takes about 7 hours 30 minutes.

From Paris, many trains go to Switzerland but not from the Gare du Nord. This is the station that you arrive at when you catch the Eurostar train from London. That means you need to plan your route in advance and be prepared to carry your luggage through the Paris underground.

Driving from the UK

You can also get to Switzerland by car. It takes about one day. The Swiss border is approximately 850km from the channel coast. You could start early and be in Basel for dinner. You can drive onto a train which then passes through the Eurotunnel. These trains are frequent; they operate 24 hours a day, and the journey takes 35–45 minutes. The alternative is driving onto a ferry. Fares depend on what time you travel, the time of the year, and how far in advance you book.



☺ Read the text again and decide if the statements are True or False.

1. There are only three airports in Switzerland that can fly to from the UK.
2. British Airways and Swiss flights are not more expensive than other companies.
3. You can't get very cheap flights at the weekend?
4. You can send your bags from a UK airport to a Swiss train station so that you don't need to carry them.
5. You can't go direct by train from the UK.
6. If you drive from the UK to Switzerland, you must always travel by sea at some point.
7. The text mentions six types of transport in total.



LISTENING

🔊 Listen to two people talking about learning to drive. Are these statements true (T), false (F) or is the information not mentioned (NM)?

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1 Mark's brother started driving lessons at the age of 11. | T/F/NM |
| 2 Kev will have experience of driving in traffic during these lessons. | T/F/NM |
| 3 The woman thinks that young people like Kev will need fewer lessons later on. | T/F/NM |
| 4 Both speakers think having a minimum number of lessons is important. | T/F/NM |
| 5 The woman thinks Kev will be less scared when he drives on roads. | T/F/NM |

🔊 Listen again and complete the sentences with one or two words in each gap.

- 1 Anna passed her driving test
- 2 Kev is taking driving lessons at a new
- 3 Mark has changed his mind about the driving school.
At first, he thought it was a idea.
- 4 Anna said she was when she started
learning to drive.
- 5 Mark didn't pass his driving test straight away and had
to take it



WHAT ABOUT YOU?

1. What do you like about travelling?

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2. Do you think "travelling" is important in a person's life? Why? Why not?

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3. What do you usually do before travelling?

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4. Have you ever had a problem when you were on holidays?

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