



7 + Entrance Examination

Paper 4

English - Comprehension and Composition

Total marks: 43

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Full name

Comprehension (18 marks)

Read this passage very carefully then answer the questions that follow. Remember to answer in full sentences.

The rain was a waterfall against the glass. The wind blew strongly and the grey clouds hurried across the stormy sky. The garden was soggy and the plants drooped under the heavy rain. Noah and Ava sat at the kitchen table, staring sadly out of the window at the downpour. Tigger lay across the table
5 like a large, ginger cushion. He was purring blissfully.

“I’m home!” Mum called from the hall. “Come and help me with this shopping.” The children got slowly to their feet and trailed into the hall. Tigger leapt off the table and trotted along with them, winding his way between their feet
10 and meowing noisily. “Tigger wants to help too!” joked Ava.

Mum was standing beside the front door surrounded by shopping bags. Her raincoat was dripping onto the floor, making a large puddle.

“Can you take these bags into the kitchen for me while I get dry?” she asked.
15

The shopping bags were bulging with spiky pineapples, heavy baking potatoes and bulky bags of flour. Tigger stood on his back paws, poking his nose into each of the bags in turn, sniffing interestedly and swishing his long, fluffy tail. “I think he can smell the chicken!” laughed Mum.

20 Noah and Ava started to heave the bags into the kitchen, staggering under their weight.

“Careful!” Mum yelled. “Don’t let the bags split.”

Soon everything was neatly stacked in the fridge and the larder.

25 "Well," asked Mum, "what have you been up to since I've been gone?"

"Nothing," said Noah crossly. "We wanted to finish building the treehouse, but it's raining and we can't go outside."

"What about helping me to bake a cake for granny's birthday?" asked Mum.

"Yes!" they both said happily.

30

Soon, they were weighing, measuring and mixing, creating a rich chocolate batter for the cake. Mum helped them to grease and fill the cake tins and to put them into the oven to cook. The kitchen began to fill with delicious baking smells.

1. Where were Noah and Ava sitting?

(1 mark)

2. Why were Noah and Ava sad?

(1 mark)

3. How do we know that Mum has been outside?

(2 marks)

4. What is Tigger and how do we know?

(2 marks)

5. Why was Tigger interested in the shopping bags?

(1 mark)

6. What did Noah want to do outside and what does Mum suggest doing instead?

(2 marks)

7. Look at line 5. The author uses the word “blissfully” in the text. What does this word mean?

(1 mark)

8. What clues are in the text to suggest that the shopping bags are heavy?

(4 marks)

9. Why might Mum have warned Noah and Ava to be careful with the shopping?

(1 mark)

10. Do you think the cake will taste good? Give reasons for your answer.

(3 marks)

Story writing (25 marks)

Write at least a side on one of the following tasks. Remember to use punctuation and interesting adjectives and vocabulary. Write in paragraphs and make your story as exciting as you can!

Either

1. Continue writing the story about Noah and Ava.

Before you start writing, think about:

- How the children might make the cake special for granny's birthday.
- How baking the cake makes the children feel.
- What the children might do for the rest of the day.

Or

2. Write about a time when you had to stay inside the house.

- Think about why you had to stay inside and what you did.
- Describe how you felt.
- Use lots of detail in your description.

7 + Entrance Examination - English Paper 4 - English Mark Scheme

Comprehension (18 marks)

In all answers, deduct half a mark for answers that aren't written in full or punctuated sentences.

1. Noah and Ava were sitting at the kitchen table (1 mark).
2. Noah and Ava were sad because it was raining (1 mark).
3. We know that Mum has been outside because she is surrounded by shopping bags (1 mark) and because her raincoat is dripping onto the floor making a large puddle (1 mark). Other justifications are also possible.
4. Tigger is a cat (1 mark). We know this because he is purring (1 mark) or meowing (1 mark). Other justifications are also possible.
5. Tigger was interested in the shopping bags because he could smell the chicken (1 mark).
6. Noah wanted to finish building the treehouse (1 mark). Mum suggests baking a cake instead (1 mark).
7. The word blissfully means (any one of the following, but not limited to): happily, contentedly, merrily, delightedly, joyfully, cheerfully, cheerily.
8. The shopping bags were bulging with spiky pineapples (1 mark), heavy baking potatoes (1 mark) and bulky bags of flour (1 mark). Noah and Ava had to heave (1 mark) the bags into the kitchen, staggering under their weight (1 mark).
9. Mum might have warned Noah and Ava to be careful because the bags were bulging full (1 mark) or they were so heavy (1 mark) so they might split (1 mark).

10. Up to 3 marks awarded as follows:

- Any statement of whether they think the cake will taste good or not (1 mark).
- Two valid reasons why/why not (2 marks), for example the cake is chocolate flavour and the kitchen is full of delicious smells.

Story Writing (25 marks)

The story writing mark scheme has been broken into specific sections that we feel are likely to be assessed in an exam. This is not an exhaustive list, but should provide some guidance as to where and why marks are given in a creative writing text.

Structure (4 marks)	
Is there a clear beginning, middle and end?	
Has an attempt been made to add a problem or dilemma into the story?	
Has an attempt been made to resolve the problem at the end of the story?	
Has clear paragraphing been used?	
Vocabulary (4 marks)	
Have a variety of adjectives and/or adverbs been used to add detail?	
Have a variety of sentence openers been used? ("First", "then", "next", "finally", "eventually", "suddenly" etc.)	
Have a variety of connectors been used to link ideas? ("So", "because", "and", "even", "though", "although", "besides" etc.)	

Does the story include evidence of alliteration, similes or metaphors?	
Content (6 marks)	
Is the content relevant to the topic?	
Is the plot coherent, with ideas clearly explained?	
Have characters been described through dialogue, narration and action?	
Has the setting been described in detail, perhaps by using senses? (what the scene looks like, sounds like etc.)	
Is the content interesting to read?	
Is the content imaginative and creative?	
Punctuation (4 marks)	
Are full stops in the correct places?	
Are capital letters in the correct places (including proper nouns)?	
Has an attempt been made to add speech marks?	
Have exclamation marks, commas or questions marks been included?	
Grammar (2 marks)	
Has a consistent tense been used throughout the text?	
Does the choice of words make sense and are sentences written in the correct order?	
Spelling (2 marks)	
Are the majority of common words spelled correctly?	

Has an attempt been made to spell tricky words phonetically?	
Presentation (3 marks)	
Is writing legible and neat?	
Are letters formed correctly?	
Has an attempt been made at joined up writing?	