7 + Entrance Examination

Paper 7

English - Comprehension and Composition

Total marks: 47

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Full name .....

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Comprehension (22 marks)

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

The sky was a blue curtain. The sun shone brightly and the warm wind fanned the children, who had been out all day on the common. Martha, Peter and Hugo were playing tag near the café. The grass was still slippery from yesterday's downpour so they stuck to the concrete paths near the bandstand, which had dried out in the heat. Martha was 'it' and the boys were swarming around her like wasps around a sweet soft drink. Each time she almost caught them, they danced away from her grasp. She was feeling frustrated.

"Children, time out!" cried Granny Finn from her place on the bench facing the bandstand.

The children immediately froze. They were standing statues, and looked like petrified people from Pompeii. Granny Finn clapped her gloved hands and the children skipped to the bench to sit beside her. Granny Finn was their mother's mother and they adored her. She always gave them treacle toffees and soft mints.

Something that looked like an overweight black cat sat on her lap. Opening her large leather bag, she removed her gloves and popped them inside. "I expect you are thirsty. We have lime juice at home," she announced, "I smell rain and it's time for cucumber sandwiches with the crusts cut off and a cup of tea that I get from Fortnum and Mason. They have none of these at the café and I suggest we leave before the cloudburst." "Can we have a Coke at the café, please, Granny Finn?" asked Hugo, he fluttered his eyes pleadingly.

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"Certainly not, Hugo Finn-Stanley. You know such a suggestion is out of the question."

Granny Finn rose from the bench and as she did so dark clouds rolled in overhead and a fork of lightning sparked in the sky. Big blobs of rain splattered on the concrete, turning the paths the colour of lead. There was a thunderclap. Slowly, Granny Finn ambled down the path like the Pied Piper, the children following behind. They did not complain about the rain soaking their summer sandals and she did not say: 'I told you so.'

Written and devised by Michael Fitzalan

1. Where were the children playing?

_____

_____

(2 marks)

2. Who was Martha trying to catch?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

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3. How can we tell that it was raining the previous day?

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

4. Why is Martha frustrated?

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

5. Who is Granny Finn?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

6. Look at line 13. The author uses the word “petrified” in the text. What does this word mean?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

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7. What was on Granny Finn's lap? Can you describe it?

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

8. What does Hugo want to drink and what has Granny Finn offered instead?

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

9. What clues are there near the end of the text that show the weather was worsening?

_____

_____

_____

(3 marks)

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10. Why might Granny Finn have said “I told you so?”

_____

_____

(1 mark)

11. Would you like a granny who behaves like Granny Finn? Give reasons for your answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(3 marks)

12. What do you think makes a perfect granny?

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

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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 Granny Finn and the children.**

Before you start writing, think about:

- How Granny Finn and the children get out of the rain.
- How the bad weather makes the children feel.
- What the children might do for the rest of the day.

or

2. **Write about a time when you have been caught in a storm.**

- Remember to describe the storm in detail and use lots of description.
- Think about where you were and what you did.
- How did the storm make you feel?

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

Comprehension (23 marks)

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

1. The children were playing tag on the common (1 mark). They were playing near the café (1 mark).

2. Martha was trying to catch Peter and Hugo (1 mark).

3. We can tell it was raining the previous day because the grass was still slippery (1 mark) from yesterday's downpour (1 mark).

4. Martha was frustrated because she wasn't able to catch her brothers in the game (2 marks).

5. Granny Finn was the mother of Hugo, Peter and Martha's mother (1 mark).

6. The word petrified means (any one of the following, but not limited to): terrified, horrified, alarmed, shocked, frightened, frozen (1 mark).

7. There was a leather bag on Granny Finn's lap (1 mark). It was large and black (1 mark).

8. Hugo wants a Coke to drink (1 mark). Granny Finn offers a lime juice instead (1 mark).

9. We know that the weather is worsening near the end of the text as there are dark clouds in the sky (1 mark), there is lightning (1 mark) and it is raining (1 mark).

10. Granny Finn might have said "I told you so" because she had predicted that it would rain (1 mark).

11. 3 marks awarded as follows:

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- Any statement of whether they would like a granny like Granny Finn or not (1 mark)
- Two valid reasons why/why not (2 marks)

OR

- A valid comparison between Granny Finn and their own grandmother (2 marks)

12. Two valid reasons for a perfect granny (2 marks)
Examples:

- Someone who looks after you
- Someone who gives you treats
- Someone who plays with you or takes you to the park etc.

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)	

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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?	

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Has an attempt been made at joined up writing?	

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