



8+ Entrance Examination

English

Paper 8

Total marks: 54

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Full name:

The following extract is from The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo. Read the passage very carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Remember to answer in full sentences.

Butterflies live only short lives. They flower and flutter for just a few glorious weeks, and then they die. To see them, you have to be in the right place at the right time. And that's how it was when I saw the butterfly lion - I happened to be in the right place, at the right time. I didn't dream him. I didn't dream any of it. I saw him, blue and shimmering in the sun, one afternoon in June when I was young. A long time ago. But I don't forget. I mustn't forget. I promised them I wouldn't.

I was ten and away at boarding school in deepest Wiltshire. I was far from home and I didn't want to be. It was a diet of Latin and stew and rugby and detentions and cross-country runs and chilblains and marks and squeaky beds and semolina pudding. And then there was Basher Beaumont who terrorised and tormented me so that I lived every waking moment of my life in dread of him. I had often thought of running away, but only once ever plucked up the courage to do it.

I was homesick after a letter from my mother. Basher Beaumont had cornered me in the bootroom and smeared shoe-polish in my hair. I had done badly in a spelling test, and Mr Carter had stood me in the corner with a book on my head all through the lesson - his favourite torture. I was more miserable than I had ever been before. I picked at the plaster in the wall, and determined there and then that I would run away.

I took off the next Sunday afternoon. With any luck I wouldn't be missed till supper and by that time I'd be home, home and free. I climbed the fence at the bottom of the school park, behind the trees where I couldn't be seen. Then I ran for it. I ran as if bloodhounds were after me, not stopping until I was through

Innocents Breach and out onto the road beyond. I had my escape all planned. I would walk to the station - it was only five miles or so - and catch the train to London. Then I'd take the underground home. I'd just walk in and tell them I was never, ever going back.

There wasn't much traffic but all the same I turned up the collar of my raincoat so that no one would catch a glimpse of my uniform. It was beginning to rain now, those heavy hard drops that mean there's more of the same on the way. I crossed the road, and ran along the wide grass verge under the shelter of the trees. Beyond the grass verge was a high brick wall, much of it covered in ivy. It stretched away into the distance, continuous as far as the eye could see, except for a massive arched gateway at the bend of the road. A great stone lion bestrode the gateway. As I came closer I could see he was roaring in the rain, his lip curled, his teeth bare.

1. What does the narrator tell himself he must not do at the beginning of the passage?

(1 mark)

2. Where is the boarding school located?

(1 mark)

3. Give three examples of the boarding school 'diet'?

- _____
- _____
- _____

(3 marks)

4. Find and copy one sentence that shows how the boy is feeling at boarding school.

(1 mark)

5. What three things does the boy experience just before he decides he will run away?

(3 marks)

6. Which simile is used to describe how the boy ran? Why do you think the author chose to use this simile?

(2 marks)

7. In your own words, explain why the boy wants to leave the boarding school and return home to London?

(2 marks)

8. What figurative technique is 'roaring in the rain' an example of?

(1 mark)

9. Why did the boy turn up the collar of his raincoat?

(2 marks)

10. Why do you think the author decided to name the bully Basher Beaumont?

(2 marks)

11. Decide if these sentences are **true (T)**, **false (F)** or if it **does not say in the story (D)**. Put T, F or D beside each sentence: (7 marks)

The boy eats chilblains and marks at the school ()

The boy had never thought of running away before ()

The boy wakes up early each morning ()

The narrator of the story is young and looking forward in time ()

There is a high brick wall in front of the grass verge ()

The boy intends to take two kinds of trains home ()

The boy had planned his escape carefully ()

12. Find one word from the story that has a similar meaning to the following words: (5 marks)

frighten	
tower over	
ongoing	
glistening	
fear	

End of Part 1 (Comprehension)

Turn over the page for Part 2 (Composition)

Composition

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 writing as exciting as you can!

Either:

Imagine you are the boy in the story of the Butterfly Lion. Write a letter home explaining what you are thinking and feeling. Remember to set your letter out using the correct layout.

Or:

Write a story called 'Lost at Sea'. Use the picture below to help you.

- Use your five senses: what do you see, smell, touch, hear and taste?
- Write in paragraphs.
- Write in full sentences, using capital letters, commas, apostrophes, exclamation marks, question marks and full stops.
- Don't write a long story; write an interesting one, thinking carefully about the words you choose.



Answers

Comprehension (28 marks)

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

1. The narrator tells himself he 'mustn't forget' at the beginning of the passage. (1 mark)
2. The boarding school is located in Wiltshire (1 mark)
3. Any three of: Latin (1 mark); stew (1 mark); rugby (1 mark); detentions (1 mark); cross-country runs (1 mark); chilblains (1 mark); marks (1 mark); squeaky beds (1 mark); semolina pudding (1 mark)
4. 'I was more miserable than I'd ever been before' (1 mark)
5. He receives a letter from his mother (1 mark); he does badly in a spelling test / is punished by his teacher (1 mark); Basher Beaumont corners him and smears shoe-polish in his hair (1 mark)
6. 'I ran as if bloodhounds were after me.' (1 mark) This is a good simile because it shows how desperate the boy is to get away - as if he is running for his life away from vicious dogs (1 mark)
7. The boy wants to leave the boarding school and return home to London because he is feeling homesick (1 mark), he is being bullied (1 mark) and he is feeling miserable (1 mark)
8. Alliteration (1 mark)
9. The boy pulls the collar of his raincoat up to hide his uniform (1 mark) so that he isn't recognised by anyone on the street (1 mark).
10. Any of the following: the name Basher sounds like he will bash or hit people / Basher Beaumont is a harsh name / has alliteration with the 'b' sound which also fits with the word 'bully'
11. The boy eats chilblains and marks at the school (**F**) 1 mark

The boy had never thought of running away before (**F**) 1 mark

The boy wakes up early each morning (**D**) 1 mark

The narrator of the story is young and looking forward in time (**F**)

There is a high brick wall in front of the grass verge (**F**)

The boy intends to take two kinds of trains home (**T**)

The boy had planned his escape carefully (**T**)

11. frighten = terrorise / torment (1 mark)

tower over = bestrode (1 mark)

ongoing = continuous (1 mark)

glistening = shimmering (1 mark)

fear = dread (1 mark)

Composition (24 marks)

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 conjunctions been used to link ideas? ("So", "because", "and", "even though", "although", "besides" etc.)	
Does the story include evidence of alliteration, similes or metaphors?	
Content (5 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 imaginative and creative?	
Punctuation (4 marks)	
Are full stops and capital letters (including proper nouns) used consistently and correctly?	
Has speech been punctuated correctly?	
Have apostrophes been used consistently and correctly?	
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 common words spelled correctly?	
Has an attempt been made to spell tricky words phonetically?	
Presentation (3 marks)	
Is writing legible and neat?	
Is writing consistently joined correctly?	