8 + Entrance Examination

Paper 1

English - Comprehension and Composition

Total marks: 42

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Full name .....

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Comprehension (18 marks)

The following extract is from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Read the passage very carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Remember to answer in full sentences.

Alice has found herself in a strange new world. Having drunk some potion which made her grow to a gigantic size, she is trapped in a house. Luckily, she's been given some magic cakes to help her out of the situation…

So she swallowed one of the cakes, and was delighted to find that she began shrinking directly. As soon as she was small enough to get through the door, she ran out of the house, and found quite a crowd of little animals and birds waiting outside. The poor little lizard, Bill, was in the middle, being held up by two guinea-pigs, who were giving it something out of a bottle. They all made a rush at Alice the moment she appeared; but she ran off as hard as she could, and soon found herself safe in a thick wood.

`The first thing I've got to do,' said Alice to herself, as she wandered about in the wood, `is to grow to my right size again; and the second thing is to find my way into that lovely garden. I think that will be the best plan.'

It sounded an excellent plan, no doubt, and very neatly and simply arranged; the only difficulty was, that she had not the smallest idea how to set about it; and while she was peering about anxiously among the trees, a little sharp bark just over her head made her look up in a great hurry.

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An enormous puppy was looking down at her with large round eyes, and feebly stretching out one paw, trying to touch her. `Poor little thing!' said Alice, in a coaxing tone, and she tried hard to whistle to it; but she was terribly frightened all the time at the thought that it might be hungry, in which case it would be very likely to eat her up in spite of all her coaxing.

Hardly knowing what she did, she picked up a little bit of stick, and held it out to the puppy; whereupon the puppy jumped into the air off all its feet at once, with a yelp of delight, and rushed at the stick, and made believe to worry it; then Alice dodged behind a great thistle, to keep herself from being run over; and the moment she appeared on the other side, the puppy made another rush at the stick, and tumbled head over heels in its hurry to get hold of it; then Alice, thinking it was very like having a game of play with a cart-horse, and expecting every moment to be trampled under its feet, ran round the thistle again; then the puppy began a series of short charges at the stick, running a very little way forwards each time and a long way back, and barking hoarsely all the while, till at last it sat down a good way off, panting, with its tongue hanging out of its mouth, and its great eyes half shut.

1. Name **two** types of animal that were waiting for Alice outside the door.

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

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2. The author writes, '*They all made a rush at Alice the moment she appeared; but she ran off as hard as she could…'* What do you think the word 'hard' means in this context?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

3. What is the first part of the plan that Alice makes?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

4. The author writes, '*...and while she was peering about anxiously among the trees, a little sharp bark just over her head made her look up in a great hurry.*' Why do you think Alice was peering 'anxiously'?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

5. What does the author tell us about the appearance of the dog?

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

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6. What do you think the author means when he writes that Alice was talking to the dog in a '*coaxing tone*'?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

7. Why was Alice frightened of the dog?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

8. Read the final paragraph again. Number these events 1-5 in the order in which they appear in the paragraph. (5 marks)

Alice picked up a small bit of stick.	☐
The puppy was barking.	☐
The puppy tumbled head over heels.	☐
The puppy sat down.	☐
Alice darted behind a large thistle.	☐

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9. Decide if these sentences are **True (T)**, **False (F)** or if it **Does not say in the story (D)**. Put T, F or D by the side of each sentence. (4 marks)

    a. Bill the Lizard was helping two guinea-pigs. _____

    b. Alice saw a small puppy looking down at her. _____

    c. Alice was terrified that the dog might be hungry. _____

    d. The dog had run away from its owner . _____

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Composition (24 marks)

Write a story entitled 'A Journey Across the African Plains'.

- 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.



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8 + Entrance Examination - Paper 1 - 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. Lizard (1 mark), guinea-pigs (1 mark).
2. The word 'hard' in this context means 'fast' (or similar answer) (1 mark).
3. The first part of Alice's plan is to grow to her right size again (1 mark).
4. Award one mark for any of following answers:
   - Alice was peering anxiously because the animals may have followed her
   - Alice was peering anxiously because she didn't know how to go about her plan
   - Alice was peering anxiously because she didn't know what was in the wood.
5. The author tells us the dog is enormous (1 mark) and has large round eyes (1 mark)
6. I think the author means Alice was trying to get the dog to come near her (or other relevant answer) (1 mark).
7. Alice was frightened of the dog because she thought if it was hungry it might eat her (1 mark).
8. Read the final paragraph again. Number these events 1-5 in the order in which they appear in the paragraph.
   - Alice picked up a small bit of stick. = 1 (1 mark)
   - The puppy was barking. = 4 (1 mark)
   - The puppy tumbled head over heels. = 3 (1 mark)
   - The puppy sat down. = 5 (1 mark)
   - Alice darted behind a large thistle. = 2 (1 mark)
9. Decide if these sentences are True, False or if it Does not say in the story. Put T, F or D by the side of each sentence.
   - Bill the Lizard was helping two guinea-pigs = F (1 mark)
   - Alice saw a small puppy looking down at her = F (1 mark)
   - Alice was terrified that the dog might be hungry = T (1 mark)
   - The dog had run away from its owner = D (1 mark)

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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?	

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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?	

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