8 + Entrance Examination

Paper 2

English - Comprehension and Composition

Total marks: 43

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Full name .....

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Comprehension (19 marks)

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

It was the first time the boys had cycled through the woods. Tired of taking the long route home on the road, Michael had suggested they take the shortcut through the woods.

"What if we get stuck in the mud?" asked Ben, nibbling his lip anxiously.

"It hasn't rained for ages, the ground's rock hard," Michael replied. "Come on, stop being a baby. Let's go!" Without looking back, Michael swung his handlebars round and pedalled off into the woods. Reluctantly, Ben followed.

Now here they were, huddled in a clearing, staring up at the monstrous building before them. The building stared back. Its broken windows glinted menacingly and Ben was sure he saw a flash of movement from behind the glass. The lamp above the door swung rhythmically backwards and forwards, emitting a deafening creak, yet the night air remained stiflingly still. Birds screeched from the surrounding trees but none came near the house. A thick, tangled creeper seemed to suffocate the damp, crumbling walls. Ben could hear his brother's rapid breathing beside him and feel his own heart thumping against his chest.

The children's eyes followed the thin trail of smoke that rose from the chimney and drifted among the dense tree-tops. Someone was home.

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20 "Let's go," said Ben, tugging at Michael's sleeve. But Michael was staring at something, frozen to the spot. Ben followed Michael's horrified gaze and what he saw made his stomach lurch.

Written by Rosie Summers

1. Read lines 1 - 8 again. What do these lines suggest about Ben and Michael's personalities?

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

2. In lines 7 - 8 the author writes, '*Reluctantly, Ben followed.*' What does the word *'reluctantly'* tell us about how Ben was feeling about taking a shortcut?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

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3. Read lines 9 - 17 again. What noises are described in this passage? Give **three** different noises that are described.

_____

_____

_____

(3 marks)

4. When the author says, '*A thick, tangled creeper seemed to suffocate the damp, crumbling walls'* (line 15), what do you think she means?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

5. What clue suggested to the boys that someone was inside the building?

_____

_____

(1 mark)

6. Find and copy **one** sentence from the text that suggests that Ben is feeling scared.

_____

_____

(1 mark)

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7. Find one word from the story which has a similar meaning to each of the following words: (6 marks)

advised	
nervously	
peered	
quick	
banging	
pulling	

8. Read the whole passage again. Looking carefully at individual words and phrases, explain how the author makes the place seem mysterious and scary.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(4 marks)

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Composition (24 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

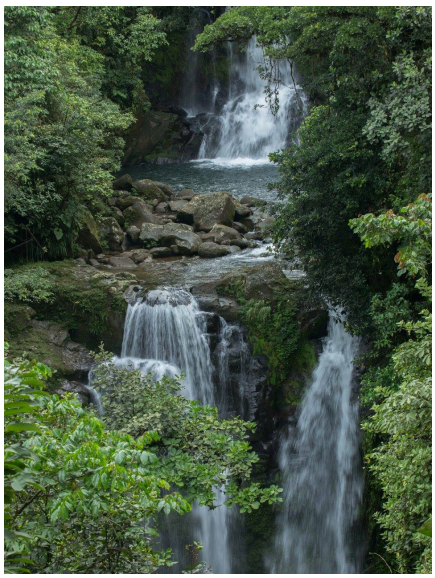
1. **Continue writing the story about the building in the woods.**

   Before you start writing, think about:
   - What Ben and Michael have seen. Remember to think about how you will describe what they are looking at.
   - How will the boys react to what they have seen and what will they do next?
   - How will the story end?

Or

2. **Write a story entitled 'The Hidden Forest'.**

   Before you start writing:
   - Use the picture below to help you.
   - Use your five senses: what do you see, smell, touch, hear and taste?
   - Don't write a long story; write an interesting one, thinking carefully about the words you choose.



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8 + Entrance Examination - English Paper 2 - English Mark Scheme

Comprehension (19 marks)

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

1. These lines suggest that Ben has an anxious/scared personality (1 mark), Michael has a brave/rude/adventurous personality (1 mark).
2. The word 'reluctantly' tells us that Ben does not want to/isn't happy to/isn't keen on taking the shortcut. (1 mark)
3. The noises that are described are the creaking lamp (1 mark), the screeching birds (1 mark) and Michael's breathing (1 mark).
4. Award 1 mark for any description of the creeper covering/ hiding/ taking over the walls.
5. The clue that suggested that someone was in the house was the trail of smoke coming from the chimney (1 mark).
6. Award 1 mark for any one of the following:
   - "What if we get stuck in the mud?" asked Ben, nibbling his lip anxiously.
   - Ben could hear his brother's rapid breathing beside him and feel his own heart thumping against his chest.
   - Ben followed Michael's horrified gaze and what he saw made his stomach lurch.
   - Reluctantly, Ben followed.
   - "Let's go," said Ben, tugging at Michael's sleeve.

7.

advised	suggested (1 mark)
nervously	anxiously (1 mark)
peered	stared (1 mark)
quick	rapid (1 mark)
banging	thumping (1 mark)
pulling	tugging (1 mark)

8. Four examples of specific words or phrases with valid explanation of how they make the place seem mysterious and scary. Examples:

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- The author says that the windows ‘glinted menacingly’ which makes the house seem angry and scary.
- The author writes that Ben sees movement behind the windows. This makes the reader think that someone is watching them from the house.
- The author says that the lamp is swinging even though the air is still. This suggests that the house might be haunted or that someone might be in the house.
- The author writes that the birds won’t go near the house. This suggests that the birds know there is something dangerous about the house.

Composition (24 marks)

Structure (4 marks)	
Is there a clear beginning, middle and end? (Note: task 1 should include just a 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	

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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?	

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