LATE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2012

YEAR 4

ENGLISH

Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Instructions:

- Answer all the questions on the exam paper.
- Make sure you check your work carefully for errors in spelling, expression and grammar usage.
- Answer each question as clearly and as neatly as possible.

Good Luck!
Section A

Comprehension (20 marks)

The Titanic

On the morning of 10 April 1912, a ship sailed from Southampton with 2,235 passengers and crew bound for New York. The Titanic was huge, the size of a cathedral, and as luxurious as the finest hotel. It was a modern wonder of the world, a symbol of the future—and everyone thought it was unsinkable.

From Thursday noon to Friday noon the Titanic ran 386 nautical miles. Friday to Saturday 519 miles, and Saturday to Sunday 546 miles. She was making 22 knots. Everyone agreed she was the most comfortable ship they had travelled in. There was, though, a vibration which was most noticeable as one lay in the bath. The throb of the engines came straight up from the floor through the metal sides of the tub so that one could not put one’s head back with any comfort. Throughout her voyage, the Titanic slightly listed to port, but it was nothing. As the second-class passengers sat at table in the dining-room they could, if they watched the skyline through the portholes, see both skyline and sea on the port side but only sky to starboard. The purser thought this was probably because more coal had been used from the starboard bunkers.

When some passengers went on deck on Sunday morning they found the temperature had dropped so rapidly that they did not care to stay outside, although there was no wind, or only that artificial wind created by the passage of the ship. Both the French liner Touraine and the German Amerika had wirelessed the Titanic reporting ice, and the Titanic had replied thanking them. Sunday dinner was served, and then coffee. Thomas Andrews, the shipbuilder, strolled down to the kitchens to thank the baker for making some special bread for him. The passengers went to bed with the presumption that they would be ashore in New York in forty-eight hours’ time. At the evening service, after coffee, Reverend Carter had caused the hymn “For Those in Peril on the Sea” to be sung, but he had brought the service to a close with a few words on the great confidence all on board felt in the Titanic’s great steadiness and size. At 11.40 Frederick Fleet, the look-out in the crow’s-nest, saw or sensed an iceberg ahead. The Titanic veered to port, so that it was her starboard plates which were open. The engines were stopped. There was a perfectly still atmosphere. It was a brilliantly starlit night but with no moon, so that there was little light that was of any use. She was a ship that had come quietly to rest without any indication of disaster. No ice was visible: the iceberg had been glimpsed by the look-out and then gone. There was no hole in the ship’s side through which water could be seen to be pouring, nothing out of place, no sound of alarm, no panic, and no movement of anyone except at a walking pace.

Within ten minutes the water had risen fourteen feet inside the ship. Mail bags were floating about in the mail room. The passengers had no idea of danger. The only passengers who saw an iceberg were a few still playing cards in the smoking room. They discussed how high it might have been and went back to their cards. One pointed to a glass of whisky at his side and said that if any ice had come on board he would like some in his whisky. Everyone laughed. The crew soon discovered that the decks were covered with ice but still there was no panic. There was no panic because there was no awareness. The Titanic was assumed to be unsinkable. The shipbuilders had said so. Practically everyone believed she was as unsinkable as a railway station. She was in fact sinking very fast and by midnight was a quarter sunk already. There was something unusual about the stairs, a curious sense of something out of balance, a sense of not being able to put your foot down in the right place. The Titanic was settling by the head.
There is going to be no coherent account of what happened in the last hour of the Titanic, because nothing coherent happened. The Titanic was a sixth of a mile long and had eleven decks. What happened in one place did not happen in another. What happened on the starboard side did not happen on the port. On the port side, women and children only were allowed into the boats which were even sent away half-empty because there weren’t enough women to fill them.

Everyone agrees that the band played until the last. There were eight of them, and none survived. They had played throughout dinner and then gone to their berths. About twenty to one, when the ship was foundering, the cellist ran down the deserted starboard deck, his cello trailing behind him with the spike dragging along the floor. Soon after that the band began to play ragtime. They were still playing ragtime when the last boat was launched.

Glossary:
- Listed to port - leaned to the left
- Port - left side of the ship
- Starboard - right side of the ship
- Wirelessly - sent a message through the wireless (telegraph)
- Crow’s nest - the top of the mast used as a lookout point
- Starboard plates - windows on the right side of the ship
- Head - front of the ship

Questions
Answer all the following questions in full sentences.

1. Why do you think the writer begins this account with details of the ship’s mileage and speed?

   (2 marks)

2. How does the writer create a sense of possible danger in paragraphs 2 and 3? Give examples from the text to support your points.

   (4 marks)
3. List the events that the writer mentions in the third paragraph:

(4 marks)

4. Why do you think the writer chose to mention the events described in the third paragraph which begins “Within ten minutes…”? Support your answers with examples from the text.

(3 marks)

5. What does this sentence mean: “There is going to be no coherent account of what happened in the last hour of the Titanic, because nothing coherent happened”?

(2 marks)

6. Explain the following words as they are used in the text:
   - Artificial wind (paragraph 2)
   - Presumption (paragraph 2)
   - Unsinkable (paragraph 3)
   - Coherent (paragraph 4)
   - Launched (paragraph 5)

(5 marks)
DIRECTED WRITING  (15 marks)

Imagine you are one of the survivors of the Titanic after the ship has sunk and you are one of the lucky ones who was saved by the life boats. Write a diary entry describing the thoughts and the feelings you had at the time of the events. You might want to focus on:

- What was happening around you and how you reacted to it
- Your thoughts as the ship was sinking
- Your fears
- The reaction of the other passengers  (Write around 200 words)
WRITING TASK: (15 marks)

Choose ONE of the following tasks and write between 200-300 words.

Descriptive

Write the description of a frightening experience, this can be real or imaginary, in which you describe what happened and how you felt. You should use:

- The senses
- Imagery (simile, metaphor, personification…)
- Descriptive and varied vocabulary
- Paragraphs
- Accurate spelling, expression and grammar

Remember that your choice of vocabulary is very important to the effect you achieve.

Narrative

Write about a time when you won something. Your story can be real or imaginative.

- Write your narrative in the first person
- Include feelings
- Develop your narrative with a structured plot, leading towards a suitable ending
- Use descriptive language techniques
- Use accurate spelling, expression and grammar