

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL, NICOSIA
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2002

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Native/Near-Native Speakers

YEAR 2

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. FILL IN YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ON THE SLIP ATTACHED.**
- 2. ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED AND THE ESSAY ON THE LINED PAPER IN THIS BOOKLET.**
- 3. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**
- 4. WRITE NEATLY. WRITE GOOD ENGLISH.**

This paper is 11 pages

SECTION II (30 MARKS)

Read this passage. Answer the questions that follow in the spaces provided.

Father was in the army all through the war – the First War, I mean – so, up to the age of five, I never saw much of him, and what I saw did not worry me. Sometimes I woke and there was a big figure in khaki peering down at me in the candlelight. Sometimes in the early morning I heard the slamming of the front door and the clatter of nailed boots down the cobbles of the lane. These were Father's entrances and exits. Like Santa Claus he came and went mysteriously.

In fact, I rather liked his visits, though it was an uncomfortable squeeze between Mother and him when I got into the big bed in the early morning. He smoked, which gave him a pleasant musty smell, and shaved, an operation of astounding interest. Each time he left a trail of souvenirs – model tanks and Gurkha knives with handles made of bullet cases, and German helmets and cap badges and button-sticks, and all sorts of military equipment – carefully stowed away in a long box on top of the wardrobe, in case they ever came in handy. There was a bit of the magpie about Father; he expected everything to come in handy. When his back was turned, Mother let me get a chair and rummage through his treasures. She didn't seem to think so highly of them as he did. 10
20

The war was the most peaceful period of my life. The window of my attic faced south-east. My mother had curtained it, but that had small effect. I always woke with the first light and, with all the responsibilities of the previous day melted, feeling myself rather like the sun, ready to illumine and rejoice. Life never seemed so simple and clear and full of possibilities as then. I put my feet out from under the clothes – I called them Mrs Left and Mrs Right – and invented dramatic situations for them in which they discussed the problems of the day. At least Mrs Right did; she was very demonstrative, but I hadn't the same control of Mrs Left, so she mostly contented herself with nodding agreement. 30

They discussed what Mother and I should do during the day, what Santa Claus should give a fellow for Christmas, and what steps should be taken to brighten the home. There was that little matter of the baby, for instance. Mother and I could never agree about that. Ours was the only house in the terrace without a new baby, and Mother said we couldn't afford one till Father came back from the war because they cost seventeen and six. That showed how simple she was. The Geneys up the road had a baby, and everyone knew they couldn't afford seventeen and six. It was probably a cheap baby, and Mother wanted something really good, but I felt she was too exclusive. The Geneys' baby would have done us fine. 40

Having settled my plans for the day, I got up, put a chair under the attic window, and lifted the frame high enough to stick out my head. The window overlooked the front gardens of the terrace behind ours, and beyond these it looked over a deep valley to the tall, red-brick houses terraced up the opposite hillside, which were all still in shadow, while those at our side of the valley were all lit up, though with long strange shadows that made them seem unfamiliar; rigid and painted. 50

After that I went into Mother's room and climbed into the big bed. She woke and I began to tell her of my schemes. By this time, though I never seem to have noticed it, I was petrified in my nightshirt, and I thawed as I talked until, the last frost melted, I fell asleep beside her and woke again only when I heard her below in the kitchen, making the breakfast.

After breakfast we went into town; heard Mass at St Augustine's and said a prayer for Father, and did the shopping. If the afternoon was fine we either went for a walk in the country or a visit to Mother's great friend in the convent, Mother St Dominic. Mother had them all praying for Father, and every night, going to bed, I asked God to send him back safe from the war to us. Little, indeed, did I know what I was praying for! 60

One morning I got into the big bed, and there, sure enough, was Father in his usual Santa Claus manner, but later, instead of uniform, he put on his best blue suit, and Mother was as pleased as anything. I saw nothing to be pleased about, because, out of uniform, Father was altogether less interesting, but she only beamed, and explained that our prayers had been answered, and off we went to Mass to thank God for having brought Father safely home. 70

The irony of it! That very day when he came in to dinner he took off his boots and put on his slippers, donned the dirty old cap he wore about the house to save him from colds, crossed his legs, and began to talk gravely to Mother, who looked anxious. Naturally, I disliked her looking anxious, because it destroyed her good looks, so I interrupted him.

'Just a moment, Larry!' she said gently.

This was only what she said when we had boring visitors, so I attached no importance to it and went on talking.

'Do be quiet, Larry!' she said impatiently. 'Don't you hear me talking to Daddy?' 80

This was the first time I had heard those ominous words, 'talking to Daddy', and I couldn't help feeling that if this was how God answered prayers, he couldn't listen to them very attentively.

Now answer the following questions:

1. List the reasons the boy gives for enjoying his father's visits. [3 marks]

2. Explain in your own words the meaning of "an operation of astounding interest" (l. 12). [2 marks]

3. Explain what the writer means when he says "There was a bit of the magpie about Father" (l. 17). [2 marks]

4. Where would we normally see the word "stowed" used (l. 15)? [1 mark]

5. Explain in a word or short phrase the meaning of the following *as they are used in the passage*:

- i. rummage (l.19) _____
- ii. demonstrative (l. 29) _____
- iii. exclusive (l. 42) _____
- iv. rigid (l. 49) _____
- v. thawed (l. 54) _____
- vi. beamed (l. 68) _____

[6 marks]

6. Where could the "trail of souvenirs" (l. 13) have been from? [1 mark]

7. In your own words, say what the writer felt on waking up in the mornings. [2 marks]

8. Why, in fact, would Mrs Left content herself “with nodding agreement”? (l. 31) [1 mark]

9. Explain “all still in shadow” (ll. 47-8). [1 mark]

10. “...they cost seventeen and six” (l. 38). Who or what are “they”? [1 mark]

11. In what sense was Father “in his usual Santa Claus manner”? (l. 65). [2 marks]

12. How had their prayers been answered? [2 marks]

13. Find words in the passage which have the same meaning as the following:

i. wore _____

ii. make a happier place _____

iii. precious possessions _____

iv. seriously _____

[4 marks]

14. Why would Larry say “The irony of it!” (l.71)? [2 marks]

SECTION III (40 MARKS)

Exercise A (10 marks)

For each of the following sentences, write a new one using the word given. The second sentence must be as close as possible in meaning to the first. Do not change the form of the word given in bold.

*Example: She is someone who will never let you down. **depend***
Answer: She is someone you can always depend on.

1. Even if you don't like the idea, we'll have to go with him. **whether**

2. Which of the two books would you prefer? **rather**

3. When was the last time you went to the theatre? **since**

4. In these plans nothing has been overlooked. **covered**

5. She doesn't agree with me. **eye**

6. Your car does not give as much trouble as mine. **less**

7. Isabelle does not find it easy to express herself in English. **difficulty**

8. They don't seem to appreciate their parents' care for them. **take**

9. We haven't had Mexican food before. **first**

10. I wish you weren't going on that trip. **rather**

Exercise B (10 marks)

Each of the following sentences contains a reference to an animal, bird or insect. Give the correct word in each space to complete the idiom.

Example: The food was so tempting that I just had to make a _____ of myself.

Answer: pig

1. She's not really sorry; it's only _____ tears
2. We were at school together, but it's _____ years since we've seen each other.
3. From the top of the mountain they had a _____-eye view of the whole town.
4. Now, kids, no _____ business while I'm away. Be good!
5. She had _____ in her stomach because she was so nervous.
6. She refused to say what had happened. Wild _____ could not drag it out of her.
7. He was as restless as a _____ on hot bricks!
8. George sent the police off on a wild-_____ chase by giving them the wrong information.
9. Jones is too old to play for the team. In fact he's useless, now! He's a lame _____.
10. Well, you've been a busy _____ today. Look at all the cleaning up you've managed to do!

Exercise C (10 marks)

Fill in the following boxes by writing the correct **noun** and **adjective** form of the verbs given. Look at the example. Ensure the words are spelt correctly.

	Verb	Noun	Adjective
<i>Example</i>	deepen	<i>depth</i>	<i>deep</i>
1.	vary		
2.	deceive		
3.	repeat		
4.	apologise		
5.	inform		
6.	attend		
7.	compete		
8.	explode		
9.	distinguish		
10.	simplify		

Exercise D (10 marks)

Write the plural forms of these words:

	Noun	Plural Form
<i>Example</i>	thief	<i>Thieves</i>
1.	crisis	
2.	series	
3.	phenomenon	
4.	passer-by	
5.	cargo	
6.	medium	
7.	hero	
8.	bus	
9.	piano	
10.	criterion	

End of Exam

You should now check your work very carefully