

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL, NICOSIA
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2005

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 WRITING TASK ON THE LINED PAPER IN THIS BOOKLET.**
- 3. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**
- 4. WRITE NEATLY. WRITE GOOD ENGLISH .**

This booklet contains 12 pages

Writing Skills (30 marks)

Choose ONE of the following questions. **Write between 250 and 300 words.** Take care with expression, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and presentation. You will also be assessed on the originality and interest of your writing. Write your answer on the lined paper on the next page. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section

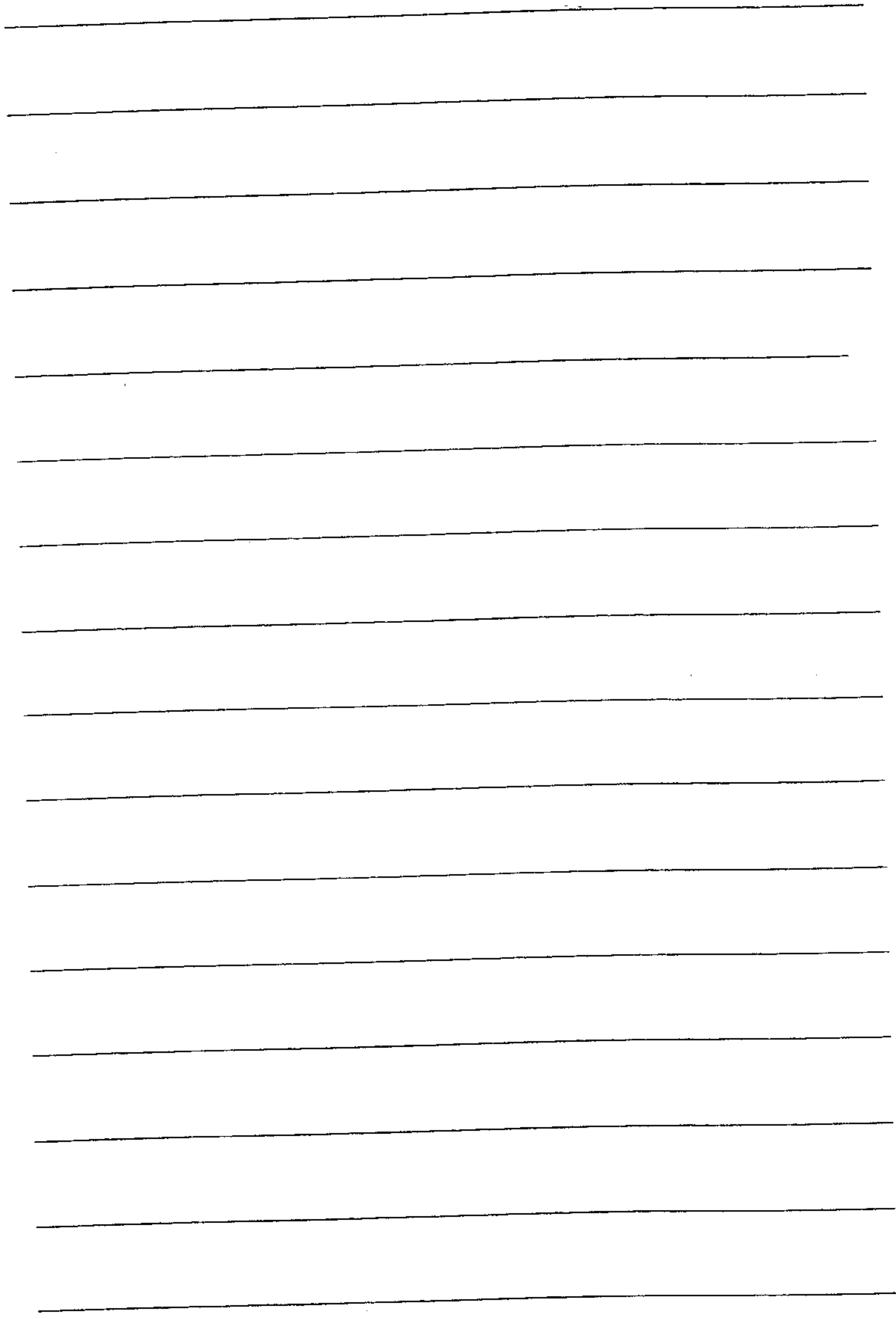
1. Write a short story in which **all** the characters are small boys and girls who can fly. Think about:
 - ✓ How you will begin and end your story.
 - ✓ How well you will develop characters.
 - ✓ How well you will describe place/atmosphere.
 - ✓ How closely you stick to the requirements of the question.

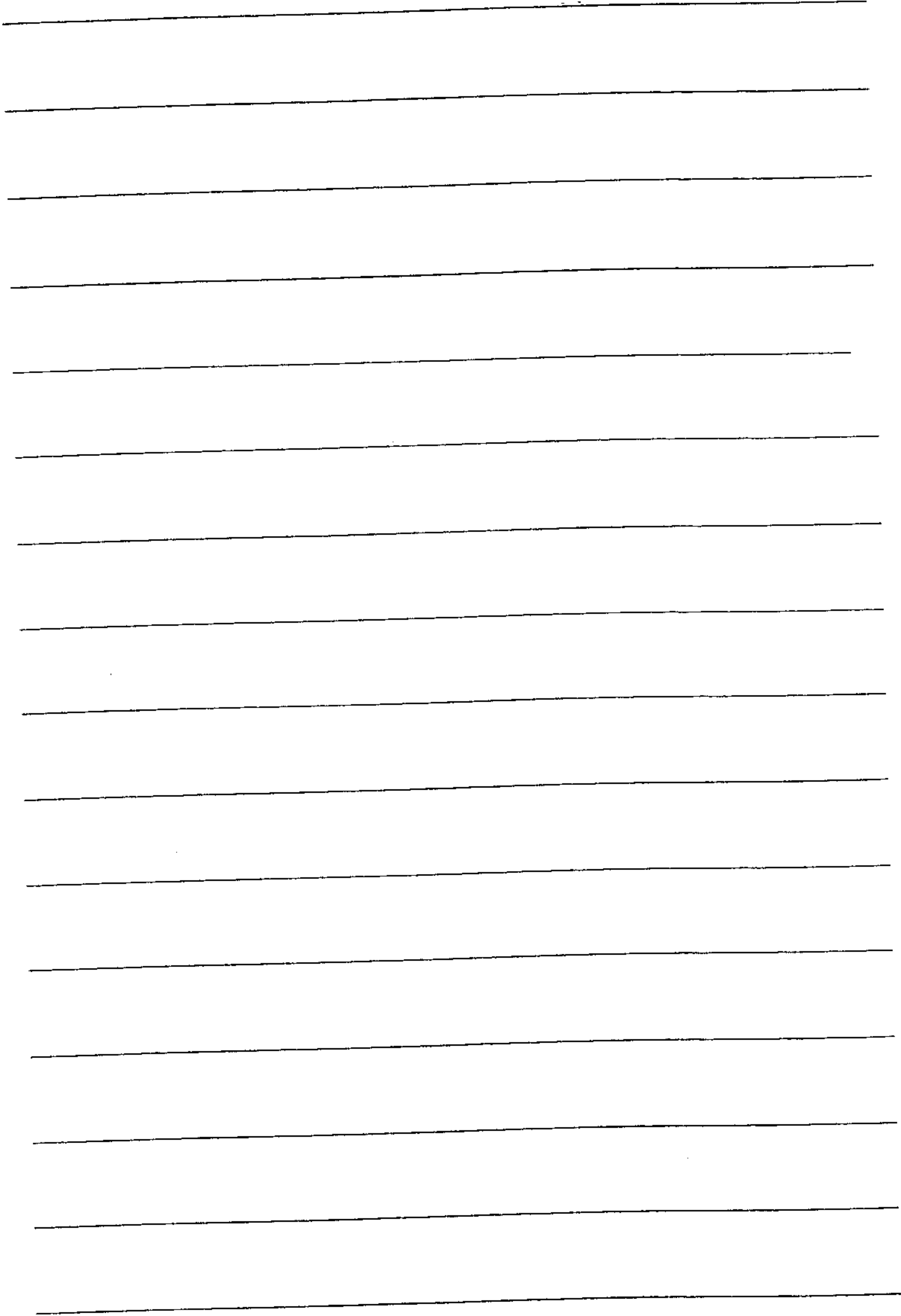
2. Imagine you find yourself at the top of a high building. Describe what you can see, hear and feel. You might wish to refer to people, animals, places as well as the sounds you can hear. Say something about your feelings as you look out at the view.

Make sure you stick closely to the requirements of the question.

3. Write about a time when you had to be very brave.
Write about:
 - ✓ What happened.
 - ✓ Your feelings at the time.
 - ✓ Your feelings now.

Make sure you stick closely to the requirements of the question.





Reading Comprehension (30 marks)

Read the following passage carefully. Earth is under attack. The narrator describes what he sees of the invaders.

I could hear a number of noises, almost like those of an engine-shed, and the place rocked with that beating thud. Through the aperture in the wall I could see the top of a tree touched with gold, and the warm blue of a tranquil evening sky. For a minute or so I remained watching the curate, who was trapped with me, and then I advanced, crouching and stepping with extreme care amidst the broken crockery that littered the floor.

I touched the curate's leg, and he started so violently that a mass of plaster went sliding down outside and fell with a loud impact. I gripped his arm, fearing he might cry out, and for a long time we remained motionless. Then I turned to see how much of our rampart remained. By raising myself cautiously across a beam I was able to see out of this gap into what had been overnight a quiet suburban roadway. Vast indeed was the change that we beheld.

The fifth travel-cylinder must have fallen right into the midst of a house we had first visited. The building had vanished, completely smashed, pulverized and dispersed by the blow. The cylinder lay now far beneath the original foundations, deep in a hole, already vastly larger than the pit I had looked into at Woking. The earth all round it had splashed under that tremendous impact – 'splashed' is the only word – and lay in heaped piles that hid the masses of the adjacent houses. Our house had collapsed backwards. We hung now on the very verge of the great circular pit the Martians were engaged in making.

They were, I now saw, the most unearthly creatures it is possible to conceive. They were huge round bodies – or, rather, heads – about four feet in diameter, each body having in front of it a face. This face had no nostrils, but it had a pair of very large, dark-coloured eyes, and just beneath this a kind of fleshy beak. In the back of this head or body – I scarcely know how to speak of it – was the single tight tympanic surface, since known to be anatomically an ear, though it must have been almost useless, in our denser air. In a group round the mouth were sixteen slender, almost whip-like tentacles, arranged in two bunches of eight each. These bunches have since been named rather aptly, the *hands*. For the first time in my sight they seemed to be endeavouring to raise themselves on these hands, but of course, with the increased weight of terrestrial conditions, this was impossible.

. . . I crouched, watching a Fighting Machine closely. And suddenly I heard a yell, and saw a long tentacle reaching over the shoulder of the machine to the little cage that hunched upon its back. Then something – something struggling violently – was lifted high against the sky, and as this black object came down again, I saw by the green brightness of their work-smoke that it was a man. For an instant he was clearly visible. He was a stout, ruddy, middle-aged man, well-dressed; three days before he must have been walking the world, a man of considerable consequence. I could see his staring eyes and gleams of light on his studs and watch-chain. He vanished behind a mound, and for a moment there was silence. And then began a shrieking and a sustained and cheerful hooting from the Martians . . .

Now answer all of the following questions in the spaces provided in your own words.

1. Explain why the tree would be 'touched with gold' in line 3. (2 marks)

2. Why did the narrator 'advance with extreme care'? (2 marks)

3. Quote another word in the second paragraph that means the same as 'aperture' (line 2). (1 mark)

4. Who or what could have been in the fifth travel cylinder? (1 mark)

5. **In your own words**, describe the scene after the fall of the fifth cylinder. Write about 25 words. (5 marks)

6. What difficulties did the invaders face on Earth? Explain why they faced these difficulties. (4 marks)

7. Explain the meanings of the following words taken from the passage in a word or short phrase (4 marks):

- started (line 8) _____
- pulverised (line 17) _____
- anatomically (line 31) _____
- of considerable consequence (line 47) _____

8. Find words/phrases in the passage that mean the same as the following (7 marks):

- peaceful _____
- carefully _____
- scattered _____
- edge _____
- slim _____
- a small hill _____
- continuous _____

9. Based on what you have understood in the passage, describe the kind of life led by the man referred to in the final paragraph 3 days beforehand, and what has happened to him since the arrival of the invaders. Write about 30-40 words. (4 marks)

English Usage (40 marks)

Exercise A

Complete the second sentence so that it is similar in meaning to the first, using the word given. The word cannot be changed in any way. (20 marks)

Example: The weather is fine, but the flowers haven't come out. **of**
The flowers....

Answer: *The flowers haven't come out in spite of the fine weather.*

1. I wish I could work in the evenings as I used to. **miss**

I.....

2. If I take the job, I'll have to move to London. **mean**

Taking the job.....

3. Tom wishes he hadn't bought the house. **having**

Tom.....

4. 'I'll definitely be here by eight,' Mary promised. **would**

Ann.....

5. I'm sure James hasn't gone to Italy. **have**

James.....

6. We were in New York a week ago today. **time**

We were.....

7. I kept looking for my ring, but I knew it was no use. **even**

I kept looking.....

8. John said he hadn't stolen the money. **stealing**

John.....

9. Your hair needs cutting. **ought**

You.....

10. People say an apple a day is good for you. **to**

An apple a day.....

Exercise B

For the following list of words write the *adjective* and *verb* forms. (10 marks)

Example:

	Verb	Adjective
base	<i>base</i>	<i>basic</i>

	VERB	ADJECTIVE
1. danger	_____	_____
2. comfort	_____	_____
3. creation	_____	_____
4. success	_____	_____
5. depth	_____	_____
6. application	_____	_____
7. decision	_____	_____
8. threat	_____	_____
9. popularity	_____	_____
10. variety	_____	_____

Exercise C

Complete each of the following sentences with a suitable word. (10 marks)

Example: Your violin sounds terrible. I think it's out of

Answer: Your violin sounds terrible. I think it's out of*tune*.....

1. This is important. We must catch the men at all
2. I was under the that you liked working here.
3. You must hand your work in tomorrow without
4. We can't fly to Madrid. The pilots are on
5. Tim says he's given up cigarettes, but I think he smokes in
6. I'm afraid we don't have your size. We're out of

7. If I give you the information, what will you give me in
8. I ran for the bus, but now I'm out of
9. I know her by, but I don't know her name.
10. I'm not very on the idea of going hiking.