

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 1999

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
NATIVE/NEAR-NATIVE SPEAKERS

SECOND FORM

TIME: ONE AND A HALF HOURS

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 SHEET OF LINED PAPER IN THIS BOOKLET.
3. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.
4. WRITE NEATLY. WRITE IN GOOD ENGLISH.

SECTION I (30 MARKS)

Choose ONE of the following questions and write around **250** words. Keep in mind the importance of vocabulary, expression, accuracy, planning and content.

1. Imagine you wake up and find that you can make yourself invisible whenever you want to
How will you spend your first day?
2. Write a story which contains the following items: an angry dog, a strong wind and an unexpected ending.
3. Write a section from the diary of a teacher.
4. Describe the scene after an earthquake.

A series of 25 horizontal dotted lines for writing.

SECTION II (40 Marks)

READ THE FOLLOWING TWO PASSAGES. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED.

Passage One:

Ted and Topsy are on the trail of a couple of dangerous criminals. The boys have entered the cellar of Skinner's warehouse where they find cases of stolen cigarettes and a coiner's den. Suddenly they hear the criminals returning...

"The trapdoor. Quick!" said Topsy.

They tore up the chute. But, as they reached the top, they saw the big warehouse door beginning to open. Topsy, who was ahead, managed to scramble through the trap: he flitted like a bat towards the staircase that led up to the workshop. In the mad *sauve-qui-peut*, his foot had accidentally thrust against Ted, who slid a little way down the chute. By the time he had scrambled up to the trapdoor again, the Wart and Johnny Sharp, their backs turned to him, were in the warehouse, only six yards away. Frantically, Ted tugged at the trapdoor. It would be fatal if the men found it open. It slid back silently over his head. This was a respite at any rate. He careered down the chute, through the vault, into the passage beyond, bumping and bruising himself against the edge of a packing-case, for the sliding-to of the trap had automatically switched off the electric lights in the vault. He paused a moment by the door of the coiner's den. There seemed to be no sounds of pursuit. Perhaps the roar of the lorry's engine had covered up the noise he made on the chute. He remembered he'd brought a pocket-torch. Switching it on, he turned off the light in the den, closed the splintered door, and crept off along the passage away from the vaults.

The passage took him about twenty paces. Then there was a flight of stone steps. Climbing up these, he found a blank wall, a grating set high up in it, and a small door. Desperately he tugged at its handle. The door was locked.

Ted knew it was only a matter of minutes before the gang realised something was wrong. The dressing-table moved out of position in the warehouse; the packing-case Topsy had opened; the splintered door of the coiner's den - there were too many signs betraying him. He sat down on the stone steps, his head in his hands, trying to steady his nerve. There was only one hope - that the gang would go upstairs first, find the scout-rope dangling from the workshop skylight, and assume that their birds had flown. But would Topsy have the sense to leave the rope there? Wouldn't his instinct be to remove this indication of their presence?

Then Ted caught at another straw of hope. Up above, in a cubby-hole off the workshop, there was a telephone. Perhaps Topsy had had time and sense enough to ring up the police before making his escape. If the gang found him, Ted determined that he would play this card, even though it might only be a bluff.

Even as he made this decision, he heard footsteps approaching along the passage, and a voice - the soft, cold voice of Johnny Sharp - saying, "Come out! Come on out! And no tricks."

Passage Two:

The four Melendy children live in New York with their father and Cuffy, the housekeeper. At the top of the house the children have a room all to themselves...

5 The room in which they were sitting might have been called a playroom, schoolroom or nursery by most people. But to the Melendys it was known as the Office. It was at the very top of the house so that they could make almost all the noise they wanted to and it had everything such a room should have: a skylight, and four windows facing east and north and a fireplace with a basket-shaped grate. The floor was covered with scarred red linoleum that didn't matter, and the yellow walls were encrusted with hundreds of indispensable objects: bookcases bursting with books, pictures both by 10 the Melendy children and less important grown-up artists, dusty Indian war bonnets, a string of Mexican devil masks, a shelf of dolls in varying degrees of decay, coats and hats hanging on pegs, the leftover decorations from Mona's birthday party, and other articles too numerous to mention. In one corner of the room stood 15 an old upright piano that always looked offended, for some reason, and whose rack was littered with sheets of music all patched and held together with Scotch tape.

20 In addition to various chairs, tables and toy cupboards, there was a big dingy sofa with busted springs a blackboard, a trapeze and a pair of rings. That was all but I think you will agree that it was enough. The Melendys seemed to go on and on collecting precious articles that they could never bear to throw away. The Office was their pride and joy, and that it lacked in tidiness it more than made up for in color and comfort and broken-down luxuries 25 such as the couch and the piano. Also it was full of landmarks. Any Melendy child could have told you that the long scars on the linoleum had been made by Rush trying out a pair of new skates one Christmas afternoon; or that the spider-shaped hole in the east window had been accomplished by Oliver throwing the Milk of 30 Magnesia bottle, or that the spark holes in the hearthrug had occurred when Mona tossed a bunch of Chinese firecrackers into the fire just for fun. Melendy history was written everywhere.

35 "There's that leak again," said Rush in a tone of lugubrious satisfaction. "It's getting bigger than it was last time even. Boy, will Cuffy be burned up!" He lay staring at the ceiling. "It's a funny shape," he remarked. "Like some kind of a big fat fish. And there's lots of other old dried-out leaks that have funny shapes. I can see a thing like a heart, and a thing like a baseball mitt, and a kind of lopsided Greyhound bus."

40 "You've missed Adolf Hitler, though," said Randy, thumping down off the trapeze and lying on the rug beside him. "See up there? That long fady line is his nose, and those two little chips are his eyes, and that dark place where you threw the plasticine is his moustache. "

45 "I'm going to throw some more plasticine and make it into George Bernard Shaw," said Rush.

.. Who's he?" inquired Randy.

"Oh a man with a beard," said Rush. "I'd rather look at him than Hitler."

50 Mona put down her book.
 "George Bernard Shaw is a playwright." she said. " My heavens don't you even know *that*? He wrote a play called *Saint Joan*, all about Joan of Arc, that I'm going to act in someday."
 "I bet that's why you were walking round your room, holding
 55 the curtain rod out in front of you yesterday. You had kind of a moony expression and you kept talking to yourself. I thought to myself, she's gone goofy at last."
 Rush shook his head and laughed appreciatively.

The following questions are based on Passage One:

1. As far as you can tell from the passage, how had the boys reached the coiner's den from their first entry into the warehouse? (2 marks)

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2. What do you think had been the dressing table's position before they moved it? (1 mark)

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3. What was above the warehouse? (1 mark)

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4. Where were the gang about to find Ted? (1 mark)

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5. What do these expressions mean? (4 marks)

- "their birds had flown" (1.32):
- "straw of hope" (1.35):
- "play this card" (1.39):
- "a bluff" (1.39):

6. Explain in simpler English, using your own words: "Wouldn't his instinct be to remove this indication of their presence?" (1. 33) (3 marks)

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The following questions are based on Passage Two:

1. What evidence can you find in the passage to show that the piano and music were used very much?
(2 marks)

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2. Explain in your own words what the following means: "Melendy history was written everywhere" (1. 32).
(2 marks)

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3. Where were Rush and Randy at the beginning of this passage? (2 marks)

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4. Why would Cuffy be "burned up"? (1.35) (1 mark)

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5. What was Mona doing when Rush saw her on the previous day? (3 marks)

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6. Describe what you have learned about the 4 children in this extract. Use **ONE** sentence for each.
(4 marks)

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SECTION III (30 MARKS)

(A) Join the following sentences together to make ONE sentence (10 marks)

Example: He sold the farm

His family had owned it for centuries

He was desperately short of cash

Although his family had owned the farm for centuries, he sold it because he was desperately short of cash.

1. They cut down the trees.

The trees had been there for sixty years.

Their purpose was to sell the timber.

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2. He returned to the village.

He had been born and brought up there.

It had changed completely.

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3. He walked across the common.

It was wet and muddy.

This would save him at least 10 minutes.

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4. It was cold.

He suffered frostbite in several toes.

He wore several pairs of socks.

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5. He swallowed the fish's eye.

It made him feel sick.

He wanted to impress his friends.

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(B) Choose **ONE** word from each of the ten pairs of words to fit the appropriate sentence (10 marks)

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|--------------------|------------------------------|
| notorious/famous | imply/infer |
| sensible/sensitive | stationery/stationary |
| affect/effect | human/humane |
| beside/besides | exhausting/exhaustive |
| aloud/loudly | comprehensive/understandable |

1. Could you get me some from the bookshop? I need some pencils, a red pen and writing paper.
2. What are you trying to ? That I'm not telling the truth?
3. I was impressed with his treatment of the animals. He clearly loves them.
4. The police made a(n) search of the house but found no clues.
5. Take no notice of me; I was only thinking
6. Cold weather doesn't really Torre. He's from Norway, after all!
7. If you have skin, wear rubber gloves when you wash up.
8. Mack the Knife is for his criminal record.
9. So, Gertrude, stamp collecting, what else do you do in your spare time?
10. It's quite why Shirley doesn't get on with her boss. He's always criticising her work.

(C) Write the opposites of these words by adding a prefix (5 marks)

Example: legible - *illegible*

1. legal -
2. rational -
3. responsible -
4. honest -
5. patient -

(D) Write the plural forms of these words (5 marks)

Example: theory - *theories*

1. storey -
2. passer-by -
3. story -book -
4. potato -
5. sheep -