

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL, NICOSIA

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2000

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Native/Near-Native
Speakers**

YEAR 2

Time allowed: **1½ 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 LINED PAPER IN THIS BOOKLET.
3. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.
4. WRITE NEATLY. WRITE IN GOOD ENGLISH.

SECTION II (50 marks)

Read the following passages. Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

In both passages, a young boy called Gerald describes his private tutors for Maths and French.

Passage One:

'Good morning. The disciple awaits the master agog with anticipation, I trust?' he would greet me, with a saturnine smile.

In the little dining-room of the villa the shutters would be closed against the sun, and in the green twilight George would loom over the table, methodically arranging the books. Flies, heat-drugged, would crawl slowly on the walls or fly drunkenly about the room, buzzing sleepily. Outside the cicadas were greeting the new days with shrill enthusiasm.

'Let me see, let me see,' George would murmur, running a long forefinger down our carefully prepared time-table; 'yes, yes, mathematics. If I remember rightly, we were involved in the Herculean task of discovering how long it would take six men to build a wall if three of them took a week. I seem to recall that we have spent almost as much time on this problem as the men spent on the wall. Ah, well, let us gird our loins and do battle once again. Perhaps it's the *shape* of the problem that worries you, eh? Let us see if we can make it more exciting.'

He would droop over the exercise-book pensively, pulling at his beard. Then in his large, clear writing he would set the problem out in a fresh way.

'If it took two caterpillars a week to eat eight leaves, how long would four caterpillars take to eat the same number? Now, apply yourself to that.'

While I struggled with the apparently insoluble problem of the caterpillars' appetites, George would be otherwise occupied. He was an expert fencer, and was at that time engaged in learning some of the local peasant dances, for which he had a passion. So, while waiting for me to finish the sum, he would drift about in the gloom of the room, practising fencing stances or complicated dancing-steps, a habit that I found disconcerting, to say the least, and to which I shall always attribute my inability to do mathematics. Place any simple sum before me, even now, and it immediately conjures up a vision of George's lanky body swaying and jerking round the dimly lit dining-room. He would accompany the dancing sequences with a deep and tuneless ~humming, like a hive of distraught bees.

'Tum-ti-tum-ti-tum ... tiddle tiddle tumty *dee* ... left leg over ... three steps right... tum-ti-tum-ti-tum-ti - *dum*... back,

round, down and up ... tiddle iddle umpty *dee* ... 'he would
 40 drone, as he paced and pirouetted like a dismal crane. Then,
 suddenly, the humming would stop, a steely look would creep
 into his eyes, and he would throw himself into an attitude of
 defence, pointing an imaginary foil at an imaginary enemy. His
 eyes narrowed, his spectacles a-glimmer, he would drive his
 45 adversary back across the room, skilfully avoiding the furniture.
 When his enemy was backed into the corner, George would
 dodge and twist round him with the agility of a wasp, stabbing,
 thrusting, guarding. I could almost see the gleam of steel. Then
 came the final moment, the upward and outward flick that would
 50 catch his opponent's weapon and twist it harmlessly to one side,
 the swift withdrawal, followed by the long, straight lunge that
 drove the point of his foil right through the adversary's heart.
 Through all this I would be watching him, fascinated, the exer-
 cise-book lying forgotten in front of me.

Questions for Passage One:

a) Write in simple English: "the disciple awaits the master agog with anticipation I trust?"
 (lines 1-2) [2 marks]

.....

b) Why is the mathematical problem described as "Herculean" (line 12)? [1 mark]

.....

c) How does Gerald explain his failure to do well in Maths? [2 marks]

.....

d) Quote two similes, each in paragraphs 6 and 7. [2 marks]

.....

e) What is Gerald referring to when he says: "I could almost see the gleam of steel" (line 48)? [2 marks]

.....

f) Find *single* words in the passage that mean the same as each of the following:

darkness -

speak in a low tone -

liveliness -

charging -

[4 marks]

g) What word is used throughout the passage to indicate that George's behaviour never changed? [1 mark]

.....

Passage Two:

The first morning I arrived, he welcomed me into a living-room whose walls were decorated with a mass of heavily-framed photographs of himself in various Napoleonic attitudes. The Victorian chairs, covered with red brocade, were patched with
5 antimacassars by the score: the table on which we worked was draped in a wine-red cloth of velvet, with a fringe of bright green tassels round the edge. It was an intriguingly ugly room. In order to test the extent of my knowledge of French, the consul sat me down at the table, produced a fat and battered edition of *Le Petit Larousse*, and placed it in front of me, open at page one.

10 'You will please to read zis,' he said, his gold teeth glittering amicably in his beard.

He twisted the points of his moustache pursed his lips, clasped his hands behind his back and paced slowly across to
15 the window, while I started down the list of words beginning with A. I had hardly stumbled through the first three when the consul stiffened and uttered a suppressed exclamation. I thought at first he was shocked by my accent, but it was apparently nothing to do with me. He rushed across the room, muttering to
20 himself, tore open a cupboard, and pulled out a powerful-looking air rifle, while I watched him with increasing mystification and interest not unmixed with a certain alarm for my own safety. He loaded the weapon dropping pellets all over the carpet in his frantic haste. Then he crouched and crept back to the window,
25 where half concealed by the curtain, he peered out eagerly. Then he raised the gun, took careful aim at something, and fired. When he turned round, slowly and sadly shaking his head, and laid the gun aside, I was surprised to see tears in his eyes. He drew a yard or so of silk handkerchief out of his breast pocket and blew
30 his nose violently.

'Ah, ah, ah,' he intoned, shaking his head dolefully, 'ze poor lizzle fellow. Buz we musz work please to continuez wiz your reading, *mon ami*.'

For the rest of the morning I toyed with the exciting idea that
35 the consul had committed a murder before my very eyes, or, at least, that he was carrying out a blood feud with some neighbouring householder. But when, after the fourth morning, the consul was still firing periodically out of his window; I decided that my explanation could not be the right one unless it was an
40 exceptionally large family he was feuding with, and a family moreover, who were apparently incapable of firing back. It was a week before I found out the reason for the consul's incessant fusillade; and the season was cats. In the Jewish quarter, as in

45 other parts of the town, the cats were allowed to bleed un-
 checked. There were literally hundreds of them. They belonged
 to no one and were uncared for, so that most of them were in a
 frightful state, covered with sores, their fur coming out in great
 bald patches, their legs bent with rickets, and all of them so thin
 that it was a wonder they were alive at all. The consul was a
 50 great cat-lover, and he possessed three large and well-fed Persians
 to prove it. But the sight of all these starving, sore-ridden felines
 stalking about on the roof-tops opposite his window was too
 much for his sensitive nature.

55 'I cannot feed zem all: he explained to me, 'so I like to make
 zem happiness by zooting zem. Zey are bezzer so, buz iz makes
 me feel so zad.'

Questions for Passage Two:

h) What made the consul stiffen (line 17)? [1 mark]

.....

i) Why would Gerald watch the consul with "mystification and interest"?
 (lines 21-22) [2 marks]

.....

.....

j) Find *single* words in the passage that mean the same as each of the following:

bent down -

hidden -

panic -

looked at intently -

[4 marks]

A series of horizontal dotted lines spanning the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice.

SECTION III (20 marks)

a) For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as close as possible in meaning to the original sentence making use of the word given in capitals. This word should not be changed in any way. [10 marks]

Example: He was driving so fast that there was no way he could stop in time. **SUCH**

He was driving at **such** a fast speed that there was no way he could stop in time.

1. I have no idea how to respond to their letter. **LOSS**

.....

2. We will of course take into account her youth. **ALLOWANCES**

.....

3. I still see my old school friends occasionally. **WHILE**

.....

4. At this moment there are sufficient restaurants in this area. **SHORT**

.....

5. She was allowed everything she wanted as a child. **NOTHING**

.....

b) Fill in the gaps in the following passage. Use **one** word for each gap. [10 marks]

Daphne du Maurier and her two sisters grew up in an exciting world of writers and actors. She was educated at home, (1) from six months spent in France when she was 18, and she read (2) in English and French. Her first poems and short stories were written while she was a child. In 1926 Daphne (3) with her mother and sisters to Fowey in Cornwall, and this visit seems to have (4) an important turning point in her life. She fell in love with the place and its people, and was moved to (5) her first full-length work of fiction, *The Loving Spirit*. This romantic story was read by Frederick Browning who was then a young officer in the Guards. It (6) him so deeply that he decided to go to Fowey in his boat to (7) the person who had written it. In 1932 Browning and Daphne du Maurier were married. They had two daughters and a son. Daphne (8) most of her adult life in Cornwall (9) she loved so much and where her most popular novels are (10). She died there in 1989.

THIS IS THE END OF THE PAPER

If you have time, check through your answers to correct any careless mistakes you might have made.

Don't write anything in these boxes.

For Examiner's Use Only

TASK	Marks	Marks scored
A	30	
B	13	
C	5	
D	11	
E	10	
F	11	
G	10	
H	5	
I	5	
Total	100	