

# The English School

## Entrance Examination 2018

English – *Year 1* – Non-Native Paper

Time Allowed: **1hour 15minutes**

### General Instructions:

1. Answer all the questions asked
2. Use your own words unless otherwise stated
3. Write neatly
4. Check your work carefully at the end

### Time Guidance:

Section A: Composition (35 marks): **25 minutes**

Section B: Comprehension and Usage (50 marks): **35 minutes**

Section C: Directed Writing (15 marks): **15 minutes**

*Good Luck!*

## Section A: Composition

(35 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following questions and write about **220-250 words**.

Remember the importance of:

- planning your response
- vocabulary and expression
- accuracy and punctuation
- paragraphing

### **EITHER**

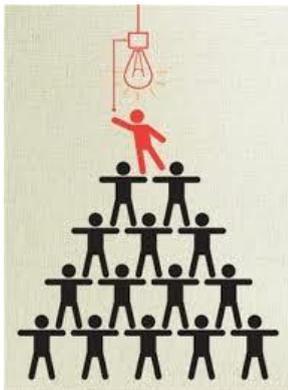
1. Write a **story** which begins:

**‘Standing on bank of the river, the dark clouds gathering above me, I could see something shining on the surface of the water...’**

### **OR**

2. **Discuss** the topic below considering a variety of arguments, making sure you develop your ideas in a clear and logical manner.

**‘Teamwork makes us better.’**



### **OR**

3. Imagine you step off a bus and find yourself on a different planet. **Describe** what you see, making sure you focus on providing as much descriptive detail as possible.





## SECTION B:

### Comprehension and Usage tasks (50 marks)

*Read carefully the adapted extract from Michael Morpurgo's story **Why the Whales Came** and complete the tasks that follow. Answer in complete sentences unless you are otherwise instructed.*

*Please note that the gaps in paragraph one relate to Task 2, following the text.*

*The narrator (the person who tells the story) is a girl name Gracie.*



*Why the Whales Came,*

**by Michael Morpurgo**

### Chapter 1: **Z.W.**

We all **a knew** (know) well enough that the west coast of the island was dangerous for children, whatever the weather. Mother and Father **b** \_\_\_\_\_ (remind) me repeatedly about it, and they **c** \_\_\_\_\_ (be) right to do so.

Here, even on **d the** \_\_\_\_\_ (calm) of days, the waves could sweep you off the rocks and take you out to sea. I had been there often enough, but always

with Father. I never e\_\_\_\_\_ (go) alone over to that side of the island, none of us ever did. We f\_\_\_\_\_ (take) our parents' advice very g \_\_\_\_\_ (serious).

There was another reason why we children were warned away from Rushy Bay and the west coast of the island: The Birdman was the only one who lived on that side of the island. He lived in the only house facing out over the west coast on Heathy Hill overlooking Rushy Bay. No one ever went near him and no one ever spoke to him. Like all the other children on the island, Daniel and I knew that the Birdman was to be avoided. Some said the Birdman was mad. Some said he was the devil himself and that he would put spells and curses on you if you came too close.

The little I saw of the Birdman was enough to convince me that all the stories we heard about him must be true. He was more like an owl, a creature of the dark.



He was rarely seen outside in the daylight, perhaps out in his rowing boat around the island or sitting high on his cart;



a cart pulled by a donkey

and even in the hottest summers he would always wear a black cape over his shoulders and a pointed black hat. From a distance, you could hear him talking loudly to himself in a strange, **unearthly** voice. Maybe it was not to himself that he talked, but to the black donkey that pulled his cart wherever he went, or maybe it was to the dog that walked along beside him. The Birdman went everywhere barefoot, even in winter. He was a black figure that walked in an unsteady manner, one step always shorter than the other. And wherever he went he would be surrounded by screaming seagulls that circled and floated above him. He rarely spoke to anyone; indeed, he scarcely even looked at anyone.



Seagulls

Until now it had never even occurred to either Daniel or me to go alone into the **forbidden** parts of the island, nor to go anywhere near the Birdman's cottage. But Daniel and I had to have somewhere to sail our boats. It was all we lived for, and Rushy Bay was the only place where we could do it. Even so, I did not want to go

there. For me it was far too close to the Birdman's cottage on Heathy Hill. It was Daniel who persuaded me - Daniel **had a way with words**, he always had.

'Look, Gracie, if we go up around the back of Samson Hill he won't see us coming.'

'I suppose not,' I said. 'But he could, if he was looking that way.'

'So what if he does anyway?' Daniel went on. 'We will just run away. He is an old man, Gracie. And he limps, so he won't be able to run after us and catch us, will he?'

'Perhaps not, but . . .'

'Of course he won't. There is nothing to be frightened of, Gracie. Anyway we'd have the whole of Rushy Bay to ourselves, nice calm sea and nobody to bother us.'

'But what if the Birdman catches us, Daniel? I mean he's only got to touch us and we will go mad like him, that's what I heard.'

'Nonsense' Daniel said. 'Come on, Gracie, you won't go mad or anything else, I swear you won't.'

'What would Father say?' I asked weakly.

'Nothing, not if he doesn't know. And he won't, unless you tell him of course. Shall we go tomorrow?'

'OK,' I said. But I was still not happy about it.



sailing my boats

So we went the next day to Rushy Bay to sail our two boats, *Shag* and *Turnstone*. It was a Sunday morning after church. I was still trying to convince myself of this when we came over Samson Hill and saw the sand of Rushy Bay below us.

It was **deserted** just as Daniel had promised. We could see the smoke rising from the two chimneys at either end of the Birdman's cottage, but there was no sign of him anywhere. We sailed *Shag* and *Turnstone* until lunchtime. The wind was just right, blowing gently from east to west so that the boats fairly flew over the sea side by side. I had already forgotten all about the Birdman.

When we went back for lunch, we hid the boats in amongst the dunes; it would save us carrying them all the way home and all the way back again after lunch. But

that afternoon when we returned to the spot we had left them, they were nowhere to be found. I knew that the Birdman must have taken them.



a dune, a hill of sand near the water

I turned for home, calling to Daniel, begging him to come with me. He was standing with his back to me on the top of the dunes, when suddenly he cried out and launched himself down over the dunes and out of sight. **My mouth was dry with fear.** But curiosity got the better of my fear and I followed him, even though he was running along the beach towards Heathy Hill, towards the Birdman's Cottage. By the time I caught up with him, he was crouching down on the sand. There were two boats lying at his feet in the soft white sand. I recognized them at once. Our boats! Below them, I could see two letters written out in orange shells: **Z.W.** We both looked up expecting to see the Birdman standing over us, but there was no one. We picked up the boats and we ran home

## Chapter 2 Island of Ghosts

Our evening meal was always fish and potatoes; and that evening it was mullet, a great pink fish, my favourite. However, I had no appetite for it. All I could think of were those two letters in the sand on Rushy Bay, **Z.W.** I had to be sure it was the Birdman who had written that. I forced myself to eat the fish for I knew mother and father would suspect something if I did not, for the mullet was my favourite fish.



mullet

'I saw the Birdman today.' I said at last, casually as I could.

'I hope you kept your distance.' Said Father, pushing his plate away. 'Were you with young Daniel again?' And it was true I suppose. Daniel and Gracie were a pair, **inseparable.** We always had been.

Father went on. 'Make sure Daniel doesn't lead you into any trouble, my girl.'

Mother said. 'He's a clever boy, clever with his hands. Did you see those boats he makes?'

'I help him,' I insisted. 'I paint them and I make the sails.'

'So you have been sailing them all day away from here, I suppose,' said father. That is where you saw the Birdman?'

'Yes, Father,' I said; and then, 'About the Birdman, Father; everyone just calls him "The Birdman", but he must have a real name like other people.'

'Woodcock,' said father 'Woodcock, that's what his mother was called anyway. They came over here and built that cottage up there on Heathy Hill away from everyone else. The old woman died a few years after I was born. She must have been dead thirty years or more now. The Birdman has lived on his own up there ever since. But you hear all sorts of things about his old mother. Some will tell you she was a witch, and some others say she was mad. I don't know. It is the same with the Birdman; it's best to keep away from him. There are things I could tell you...'

'Don't go frightening her now with your stories,' said Mother, 'Anyway it's only rumours. I don't believe half of it. If anything goes wrong on this island, they blame it on the Birdman. Lobsters aren't there to be caught - it's his **fault**. Anyone catches the fever - it's his fault. If a dog is missing - they say he has eaten it. All nonsense...'



### **TASKS:**

1. Give two reasons why the parents thought that the west part of the island and Rushy Bay were dangerous for the children. Give each on a separate line. (2 marks)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Refer to the first paragraph of the text again. Some words are in brackets. Put these words in the right form. The first one has been done for you as an example. **(6 marks)**

a. knew (know)

b. \_\_\_\_\_ (remind)

c. \_\_\_\_\_ (be)

d. \_\_\_\_\_ (calm)

e. \_\_\_\_\_ (go)

f. \_\_\_\_\_ (take)

g. \_\_\_\_\_ (serious).

3. Add the missing details based on the second paragraph of the extract ( **6 marks**)

- Parents advised their children to avoid

\_\_\_\_\_

- Nobody else \_\_\_\_\_

on the west side of the island.

- There \_\_\_\_\_ house facing

out over the west coast.

- Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ the Birdman.

- People were \_\_\_\_\_ the Birdman would

\_\_\_\_\_ them if \_\_\_\_\_ near

him.

4. What information do we get about the Birdman from paragraph 3, which made him appear strange or frightening? Write down 5 pieces of information, each on a separate line **(5 marks)**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. Imagine you are a curious child talking to the Birdman. Based on the information in paragraph 3, ask the Birdman six questions. **(6 marks)**

Example: *Do you know about the stories people tell about you?*

- \_\_\_\_\_?
- \_\_\_\_\_?
- \_\_\_\_\_?
- \_\_\_\_\_?
- \_\_\_\_\_?
- \_\_\_\_\_?



6. What made Daniel and Gracie want to go to Rushy Bay on that morning? (2 marks)

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7. Complete the paragraph below in which Daniel is trying to persuade Gracie to go to Rushy Bay with him: (5 marks)

*Don't worry Gracie. We \_\_\_\_\_ around the  
back of Samson Hills and he \_\_\_\_\_ able  
to see us. And even if he sees us we will run away. I am  
sure \_\_\_\_\_ to catch us as he is a very old  
man and he has a problem  
\_\_\_\_\_, too. Imagine how nice  
it will be at Rushy Bay. Nobody else  
\_\_\_\_\_ calm.*

8. Why didn't Gracie have appetite to eat her favourite food that evening? (2 marks)

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9. Underline the sentences which give accurate information: **(4 marks)**

- The Birdman is suffering from flu.
- The Birdman is mad
- The Birdman is thought to be mad
- The Birdman will attack the children
- The Birdman isn't dangerous
- The Birdman's mother was a witch
- The Birdman's mother died when the Birdman was born.
- The Birdman is frightening for Gracie.

10. Read the last paragraph of the text again. Summarize what the mother is saying in no more than 14 words. **(5 marks)**

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11. Explain the following words/expressions as they are used in the text. They are underlined in the text for your convenience. **(7 marks)**

- Unearthly \_\_\_\_\_
- Forbidden \_\_\_\_\_
- had a way with words \_\_\_\_\_
- deserted \_\_\_\_\_
- My mouth was dry with fear \_\_\_\_\_
- inseparable \_\_\_\_\_
- his fault \_\_\_\_\_





