

The English School

Mid-Entry Examination 2020

English – *Year 4*

Time Allowed: **1 hour 15 minutes**

General Instructions:

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

Marks Allocated:

Section A: Comprehension (20 marks)

Section B: Directed Writing (10 marks)

Section C: Composition (20 marks)

Good Luck!

Section A: Reading Comprehension

(20 marks)

Read the following extract about a wedding between two people who come from very different backgrounds.

The wedding ceremony between Cecilia, elder daughter of Major and Mrs Ferris-Grebe, and Fred, one of many sons of George and Mavis Kougar, was destined to be a minor disaster.

The couple had met at University and had instantly fallen in love. Fred, who came from a family of energetic market traders, had given no thought to how Mrs Ferris-Grebe might react to the union. She was a strait-laced woman who had been heard to say 'most unsuitable' on a number of occasions. She assumed that Fred's degree in engineering would lead to a life of fixing nuts and bolts. The Kougars too had no idea what Cecilia's degree in psychology and classical studies might **entail** or how it could be relevant to selling clothes in a street market. Cecilia had managed to ensure that her mother and Fred's mother had never spoken to each other in private.

Now, here they were, meeting together in the church of Saint Thomas Bulstrode. On one side were the Ferris-Grebes with their family and friends, standing stiffly to attention. On the other side was the Kougar family, Fred's brothers and sisters of all ages, including the three-year-old twins who were already playing hide and seek around the woodwork.

The church was a barn of a place, full of gloomy, **eerie** corners that goodness knows what livestock might inhabit. An **intermittent** dripping could be heard from somewhere far away, for today it was raining heavily and with age the roof had become an ill-fitting jigsaw. The congregation was aware of an unpleasant clamminess inside the church. Mrs Ferris-Grebe had chosen this place for her daughter's wedding, as she and the major had been married here twenty-five years before.

She had also persuaded her daughter, against her will, to wear the yellowing family wedding dress, and here at last was Cecilia, unfortunately late, hanging on her father's military arm and making her way up the aisle. Mrs Ferris-Grebe clicked her tongue and looked accusingly at her daughter. Fred, who had **fleetingly** wondered if Cecilia had changed her mind, smiled and looked loving again. The Ferris-Grebe side of the church stood formally to attention and gripped their orders of service.

The Kougars were a mass of movement and colour. George and Mavis were not used to churches, but they knew all about celebrations. George had therefore picked out an assortment of garments from the market stall for his entire family. He appeared a rainbow of a man. He wore a loud, garishly striped shirt, unbuttoned at the top. His bright purple trousers sagged a little at the waist and, with the brightness of his beaming smile, he seemed to shine in the otherwise drab church. He **strutted** like a peacock and looked immensely proud of his son. Other members of the family were dressed in hideously mismatched colours and designs that clashed violently with the sombre greys of the Ferris-Grebes.

All this life went on behind the backs of Fred and Cecilia, but was uncomfortably noticeable to the vicar who was trying to conduct the service amidst the cooings and the laughter of the younger Kougars. At one point a voice said distinctly, 'Ooh, look at 'er!' Mrs Ferris-Grebe spun round and glared at Mrs Kougar who was a very **voluble** woman and could make herself very plain and speak at great length whenever the occasion demanded.

The vicar had embarked on what he called 'a few words of advice to the young couple' and as his homily grew longer and longer the entire congregation began to fidget. The Kougar twins became involved in a minor fight, which culminated in some loud recriminations. At this point the vicar forgot entirely where he was and spluttered to a complete stop.

Need one say more? Fred's brother, the best man, panicked because he forgot where he had put the ring. Oddly, throughout the whole procedure, Fred and Cecilia – whose day it was – remained blissfully happy. It didn't matter to them that the clumsy organist (an old friend of Mrs Ferris-Grebe) made the Wedding March hardly recognisable. They did not mind that by the time they had reached the door for the photographs the rain had become a raging torrent, or that Mrs Ferris-Grebe had broken down into her own, private rainstorm.

Answer all the question which follow, in your own words unless otherwise stated.

1. Re-read paragraph 3 of the extract which begins: 'Now, here they were...'

a) Select one quote which demonstrates how the Ferris-Grebe side of the family behaved in the church.

(1 mark)

b) Select one quote which demonstrates the way the Kougar family behaved in church.

(1 mark)

c) In your own words, summarise the differences between the two families according to this paragraph.

(2 marks)

2.

a) What technique is being used in the quote 'The church was a barn of a place' in paragraph 4? (*in italics in the text*)

(1 mark)

b) Explain the effect of this technique on the reader.

(2 marks)

3. Re-read paragraph 6 which begins: 'The Kougars were a mass of movement and colour.'

a) Describe the appearance of George Kougar, using evidence from the text. Make sure you include four details.

(4 marks)

b) Find and quote one simile from this paragraph and explain its effect.

Quote

(1 mark)

Effect

(2 marks)

5. Match the following words from the passage with their meaning, as they are used in the text. The words have been highlighted for you.

entail

spooky

eerie

involve

intermittent

briefly

fleetingly

irregular

strutted

walked

voluble

talkative

(6 marks)

Section B: Directed Writing

(10 marks)

Choose ONE of the following tasks and write approximately 300-350 words.

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story which includes an important celebration.

You should:

- develop a realistic plot
- use a variety of narrative techniques
- use language for effect.

OR

Descriptive

2. Write a description of a large garden party.

You should:

- use the senses making
- use imagery
- provide detail for your reader
- make sure you do NOT write a story.

Question Number:

