

**The English School**

**Entrance Examination 2020**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Near Native *Year 1*

Time Allowed: **1hr 15mins**

**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 words**.

Remember the importance of:

- Original ideas
- Planning your response
- Vocabulary and expression
- Accuracy and punctuation
- Paragraphing

**EITHER**

**1. Narrative: A day in the life of a cat.**

- Imagine you are a cat and you go to a neighbourhood you have never been to before.
- You can refer to an interesting episode that happened to you.
- Make sure you refer to your thoughts and feelings.

**OR**

**2. Discursive: The Ideal School: present how you imagine your ideal school to be like.**

You can include the following:

- A description of the buildings and the school yard.
- What would the perfect lesson be like for you?
- What kind of relationships would students and teachers have?

**OR**

**3. Descriptive: You have just been to a zoo.**

- Describe what you saw using your senses.
- What did you like and what did you dislike the most?
- What would you do to improve the animals' conditions in the zoo?

A sheet of lined paper with 28 horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page.



Section B: Comprehension and Usage

(50 marks)

*The following passage is an adaptation from the opening chapter to the novel 'Grinny' by Nicholas Fisk. The name Grinny is given to the mysterious Great Aunt Emma who turns up unexpectedly at the Carpenters' home and tells them that she has come to stay. The children - narrator Tim and his younger sister Beth - have never heard of their aged relative before.*

**Grinny**

January 14

Surprising news! I had come back from Mac's house and had just been shouted at as usual by Mum (TAKE YOUR BOOTS OFF) when I heard the station taxi coming up the drive and soon after, our bell being rung. I was still in the porch so I opened the door and there she was, all five feet one of her, with two gi-normous suitcases. I did not know what to say, but she said, 'I am your Great Aunt Emma. You must be Tim,' and I **mumbled** something about calling Mother, but Mum had heard the bell go and came running along the corridor shouting, 'If it's the Guides, it must wait till Tuesday and if it's Mac, tell him to TAKE HIS BOOTS OFF.' When she goes to heaven, she will say this to all the archangels.

I said, 'It's Great Aunty Emma, Mum, were you expecting -?' but she simply said, 'Most **amusing**, you witty lad!' in her Wednesday matinee voice and went **speeding** past on her way to the kitchen. Then she caught a **glimpse** of Aunt Emma and stopped in her tracks and came to the doorway. 'Who?' she said. 'Great Aunt who?' I could see she was completely foxed and had never heard of GAE, as I will call Great Aunt Emma from now on, as she is **bound to** figure largely in these pages from now on.

GAE said, 'You remember me, Millie!' but Mum could only see a **vague** shape and replied, 'Oh dear, I am afraid I don't quite remember -' Then I switched on the porch light and Mum could see GAE properly. GAE leaned forward and said again, 'You remember me, Millie!' and this time the penny dropped and Mum cried out, 'Great Aunt Emma! Oh do come in, you must be freezing. Tim, help with the luggage!'

So we got her inside and she is quite a strange old lady. Very short, with a hat with a veil, and gloves, and a way of smiling vaguely. Her teeth are good (false?) and she is very neat. Her shoes hardly have **creases** in them over the instep, as if she never walked, yet she is quite *spry* considering her age and soon she and Mum are **chattering** away about the journey and so on. At first Mum didn't seem quite with the situation, I could tell she was **faking** a lot, but she is a good faker (unlike Father) that only an outsider could have told that

she was a bit **baffled** by GAE. Anyhow, this soon passed, I saw her (Mum) wipe the back of her hand across her brow which is always a sign that her mind is now made up and Into Action! After another few minutes you could have *sworn* that Mum had been expecting GAE for the last **fortnight**, that the bed was aired and so on. She is very good at that sort of thing.

Then Father and Beth came in from feeding the rabbits. He made a complete *bosh* of it as usual, saying all the wrong things and making it quite clear that he hadn't a clue about the very existence of Great Aunts. But she fixed him with her *beady* eye, and *grinned*, and said, 'You remember me, Edward!' and he re-entered the twentieth century in great style, pouring everyone sherry. He gave Beth (who is seven) as much sherry as me (eleven) which is typical. Beth was as ever the Outstanding Social Success and shook hands and said, 'Oh what a lovely surprise,' and looked more like a television advert than ever. I suppose it's a *graceful* accomplishment, but it's also the mark of a little cow. She swallowed the sherry pretty fast and went across to pour herself some more but Mum caught her eye and said 'Beth...!' and that was the end of that. I got another half glass later. It is quite good sherry, a Manzanilla.

Mum drew me aside and of course it was me that had to go and put hot water bottles in the spare bed and turn on the heaters and so on to get the room ready for GAE. When I get back to the living room they were all talking away. GAE is obviously good at chitchat, she just asks questions that set people talking again. When I came in, she said, 'Tim, are you old enough to smoke?' I said no, of course, although I have smoked (what a ridiculous habit). She said, 'I am so glad, now I won't have to be polite and offer you one of these horrid things. I have only four left.' She pulled out a packet of cigarettes and lit one – she had already had one, the stub was in an ashtray – and said, 'Let me see, are you fourteen or fifteen, Tim?'

I felt myself turning pink at this ridiculous question and mumbled 'Eleven. Nearly twelve.' Sure enough, Beth said, "But he's old enough to shave, Aunt Emma!" in her Sweet Little Girl voice and everyone began to say What shave When shave Why shave Who shave How shave, just as Beth intended. What makes it all worse is that I tried Father's shaving things that time simply out of curiosity, not to prove myself a great hairy man or anything stupid like that. But of course as Father is always reminding me, WAW, Women Always Win.

Anyhow, what a silly thing to ask me if I am fourteen or fifteen, quite obviously I am not. If GAE thought she was flattering me, wrong guess. I tried to cover up by asking her how old she was. Beth murmured 'How rude' – another point to her – but GAE said, 'I have been sixty-nine now for more years than I care to remember,' and everyone laughed politely.

So it went on like that and she eventually went off to bed in high style. Thank heaven she is not a kisser, just a *peck-on-the-cheeker*. Aunt Lilian was here, saying goodnight was like those old movies with sobbing violins.

Will get Beth somehow.

**Glossary**

*spry: lively*

*could have sworn: certain*

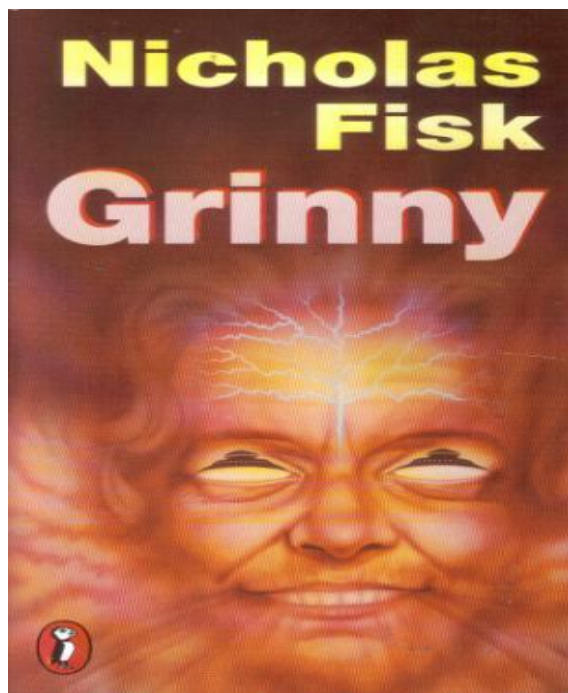
*bosh: mess*

*beady: watchful*

*grinned: smiled*

*graceful: beautiful*

*peck: gentle kiss*



Answer all the questions below, using your own words unless otherwise stated.

1. How tall is Great Aunt Emma?

\_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

2. How many suitcases did Great Aunt Emma have when she arrived?

\_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

3.

a) Which word from the opening paragraph describes the size of the suitcases?

\_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

b) What does this word say about how long she plans to stay with the family?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

4.

a) What does Tim think his mother is going to say when she goes to heaven?

\_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

b) What two things does this say about his mother?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(2 marks)

5.

a) Quote three details from the extract about what Great Aunt Emma looks like.

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_



iii. \_\_\_\_\_ (3 marks)

b) **In your own words**, summarise Great Aunt Emma's appearance. Make sure you include 5 details.

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(5 marks)

6. Re-read the paragraph which begins 'So we got her inside...'

a) Find two quotes which tell us how the mother feels towards Great Aunt Emma.

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

(2 marks)

b) What do these quotes tell us about how she is feeling towards her at that moment?

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(4 marks)

7. Re-write the sentences below without changing the meaning of the original sentence.

a) Stopping in her tracks as she saw Aunt Emma, she came to the doorway.

When \_\_\_\_\_

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b) I had come back from Mac's house when I heard the station taxi coming up the drive and soon after, our bell being rung.

After \_\_\_\_\_

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c) I felt myself turning pink at this ridiculous question.

Tim \_\_\_\_\_

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(6 marks)

8. Complete the questions below, putting the words in the bracket in the right form.

e.g. How old are (is) you Tim?

a) Are you \_\_\_\_\_ (freeze) Aunt Emma?

b) Were you \_\_\_\_\_ (expect) Great Aunt Emma to arrive?

c) Why have you \_\_\_\_\_ (start) shaving already?

d) Have you \_\_\_\_\_ (feed) the rabbits?

e) Would you \_\_\_\_\_ (like) another Sherry?

(5 marks)

9. Match the words from the passage (on the left) with their synonyms on the right, as they are used in the text. They have been highlighted in the text. The first one has been done for you.

amusing

talk quietly

mumbled

funny

speeding

babbling

glimpse

fast-moving

bound to

folds

vague

sight

creases

certain

chattering

pretending

faking

unclear

baffled

two weeks

fortnight

confused

(10 marks)

10. Connect the following information using an appropriate connective.

e.g.

Tim tried shaving once. His attempt failed.

Tim tried shaving once but his attempt failed.

a) Beth is a natural actress. She is good at pretending.

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b) Tim feels his sister is always behaving like the innocent one. She is actually very manipulative.

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c) Tim's mother didn't recognize Great Aunt Emma to begin with. She pretended to recognize her.

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(6 marks)

11. Put two commas (,) in the sentence below to make it clear that Tim had three questions.

Tim wanted to know who Aunt Emma was where she came from why she said she was 69 years old and how long she was planning to stay.

(2 marks)

**Section C: Directed Writing**

**(15 marks)**

Imagine you are Great Aunt Emma having spent a few days with the Carpenters. Write a letter to a friend explaining your experiences with the family so far.

In your response, make sure you include the following:

- the details of how they welcomed you
- what you thought of Tim and Beth.

There are **10 marks** available for the ideas in your answer and **5 marks** available for your writing.

Dear Alice,

I arrived at the Carpenters on Monday and found them very welcoming.

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With love,

Emma

- **This is the End of the Examination –**

