
THE ENGLISH SCHOOL
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2015

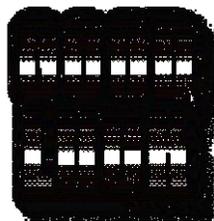


ENGLISH

Year 1 (native speakers) Time allowed: 1 hour and 15 minutes

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED ON THE QUESTION PAPER.
2. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.
3. WRITE NEATLY.
4. WRITE IN CORRECT ENGLISH.



This paper is 14 pages.

Total Marks: 100



SECTION A:

Evaluating writing skills through Creative Writing (30 marks)

You are advised to spend **about 30 minutes** on this section. Choose **ONE** of the following questions and write about **220- 250 words**. Keep in mind the importance of:

- **Vocabulary and expression**
- **accuracy**
- **planning**
- **content**

Write an interesting beginning and a good closing paragraph. Give vivid descriptions of place, characters, feelings and thoughts.

EITHER

1. You were about 6 years old when your sister told you that Father Christmas does not exist. Write what happened on that day and how you felt.

OR

2. Write a story that includes a scary man, a farmhouse, freezing weather, a torn book and a silver necklace.

OR

3. ***When the cat's away, the mice will play***'. Write a story illustrating the proverb.

OR

4. Read the extract from a poem below and based on the information and ideas you get from it, write about an experience you have had (it could be an imaginary experience).

Night Writing

Only a neat margin of moonlight

there at the curtain's edge.

The room like a dark page.

I lie in bed.

Silence is ink.

The sound of my breath dips in

and out. So I begin night writing. (by Carol Ann Duffy)



SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION AND USAGE (50 marks)

Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage and do all of the tasks that follow:

From "The Ghost of Grania O'Malley" by Michael Morpurgo. Michael Morpurgo is a very well known children's writer. Between 2003 and 2005 he was appointed British Children's Laureate. His books have been translated into many languages and are read by children all over the world.

Jessie was always finding bones in the great bog-oak field where they dug the peat for the **winter fires**. It was here too that her father found most of the wood he needed for his **wood sculptures**, his 'creatures' as she called them. She was forever going off there alone, mooching around, bottom in the air looking for her bones.

She had a whole **collection** of them, but she never tired of looking for more. Mostly they were just sheep bones-skulls, jawbones, leg bones, vertebrae. She had shrews' skulls too, birds' skulls, all sorts of skulls. But there was one skull she found that was unlike any other, because it was a human skull. She was quite sure of it.

She never said a word to anyone. She kept it with the rest of her collection in the ruined **cottage** at the bottom of the bog-oak field. No one but herself ever went near the place. She called him Smiley because he would keep grinning at her. She put Smiley in pride of place in a niche in the cottage wall; and from time to time she'd go and talk to him and tell him her troubles-which were many. Smiley would listen, stare back at her and say nothing, which is what she wanted.

But as time passed, Jessie began to feel more and more uneasy about Smiley. So one day, in confession, she told Father Gerald about her skull, partly because she'd been worrying herself about it, and partly because at the time she could think of no other

sins to confess. If she told him she had done nothing wrong, nothing bad enough to **confess**, he just wouldn't believe her. She had tried that before. So she blurted it out about Smiley, told him everything; but she could tell from the tone of his voice that he just thought this was another of Jessie Parsons' little white lies.

'Bones should be buried in hallowed ground and left undisturbed, Jessie,' he said sternly. 'Then the **souls of the departed** can rest in peace.'

So, one dark night with the owl hooting at her from high up in the ruined abbey, she dug a small hole under the abbey walls, said goodbye to Smiley in a whisper, laid him carefully in the wet earth and covered him up. She felt a lot better afterwards; and although she did miss him for a while, she felt pleased with herself that she had done the right thing.

Sometime later Father Gerald had asked after the skull and she had shown him one of her many sheep's skulls. He had laughed. 'It's as I thought, Jessie Parsons, that's never a human being. Do you not know a sheep's skull when you see one?' He had counted the teeth carefully. 'I'd say that's a six-year-old ewe, by the teeth in her.'



Jessie went and put flowers on the **unmarked grave** just once. 'I hope you are feeling better now, Smiley,' she said. 'I'll leave you be, so you can rest in peace, like Father Gerald says.' So she did, and as the weeks and months passed, she thought of Smiley less and less.

The mist cut the hill off halfway up and **dwarfed** it, but Jessie knew what was waiting for her up there, how high it really was, how hard it was going to be, and was daunted by it all over again. Mole, her mother's black donkey, nudged her from behind. Mole would go with her. He went everywhere with her.

It annoyed her but it was balance that was the real problem. Once she'd fallen over, it took so much of her energy to get up again that there was little left for the Big Hill itself. If she could just keep her rhythm going-one and two, one and two, one

and two-if she could just keep on **lurching**, and not fall over, she knew that one day, some day, she'd have strength enough to reach the top of the Big Hill.

Mole rubbed his nose up against her back. 'All right, Mole,' said Jessie, clutching the donkey's neck to steady herself. 'I'm going. I'm going. It's all very well for you. You've got four good legs. I've only got two, and they won't exactly do what I tell them, will they?' She looked up at the Big Hill and took a deep breath. 'I'm telling you, Mole, today's the day. I can feel it inside me.' The donkey glanced at her and snorted. Jessie laughed. 'Race you to the top, big ears.'

She started well enough, leaning forward into the hill, willing her fumbling feet forward. Mole walked alongside of her, after a while he trotted on ahead and disappeared into the mist. 'Clever clogs!' Jessie called after him, but then she tried all she could to put him out of her mind. She knew she had to concentrate. The path was wet from the mist, and slippery. One false step and she'd be on her bottom and that would be that-again.

She could hear Mole snorting somewhere up ahead. As like as not, he'd be at the waterfall by now. Jessie had reached the waterfall just once; the week before-it was as high as she'd ever gone on her own. That time, too, her legs had let her down. They wouldn't manage the stones and she'd tripped and fallen. She'd tried crawling, but she wasn't any better at crawling than she was at walking. She'd crawled on through the water, become too cold and had had to give up. Today would be different. Today she would not let herself give up. Today she would reach the top, no matter what. Today she would prove to Mrs. Burke, to Marion Murphy, and to everyone else at school that she could climb the Big Hill just like they could.

All this happened a year or more before the rest of it began.

Glossary:

Peat: vegetable matter that decomposes and becomes like soil.

Bog-oak: wet ground



Shrew: a small mammal with a pointy snout

Confession: in some religions you tell (confess) the priest your sins (the things you have done wrong).

Hallowed: blessed



Ewe: a female sheep



Do the following tasks using your own words as far as possible. Write complete sentences unless otherwise instructed.

1. What was Jessie doing in the great bog-oak field? Why?

(3 marks)

2. Write three things that Jessie found (no need to write complete sentences).

(3 marks)

3. Why do you think that she didn't tell anyone about the human skull?

(2 marks)

4. What did she call the skull and why?

(2 marks)

5. What did Jessie Parsons confess to Father Gerald? Why?

(4 marks)

6. Write three things about Jessie's character that you learnt from the passage.

(3 marks)

7. Explain the meaning of the following words in bold as they are used in the text. Write one word or a phrase for each:

Winter fires _____

Wood sculptures _____

Collection _____

Cottage _____

To confess _____

Unmarked grave _____

Dwarfed _____

Daunted _____

(8 marks)

8. Quote an example of repetition in the passage:

(2 marks)

9. Why does Jessie want to climb the Big Hill?

(2 marks)



USAGE: based on the test you have read.

Read the sentences and complete with True or False.

1. Jessie did not collect bones. _____
2. Father Gerald told Jessie that bones should not be buried in hallowed ground. _____
3. Mole was Jessie's mother's donkey. _____
4. Jessie loved Mole. _____
5. Jessie had already climbed Big Hill many times. _____
6. Jessie put flowers on Smiley's unmarked grave every day. _____

(6 marks)

Read the following sentences and replace the words in bold with single words of a similar meaning.

1. She was forever going off there alone, **mooching** _____ around.
2. She was **quite** _____ sure of it.
3. She put Smiley **in pride of place** _____ in a **niche** _____ in the cottage wall.
4. So one dark night with the owl **hooting** _____ at her.
5. But it was **balance** _____ that was the real problem.

(6 marks)



