

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL, NICOSIA
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2011

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
YEAR 1
Native SPEAKERS

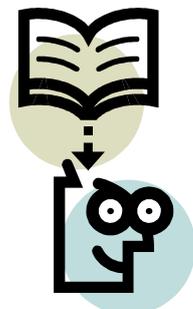
Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. FILL IN YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ON THE SLIP ATTACHED.**
- 2. ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED AND THE WRITING TASK ON THE LINED PAPER IN THIS BOOKLET.**
- 3. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**
- 4. WRITE NEATLY, WRITE GOOD ENGLISH.**

Good Luck!!!

Total: 100 Marks



This booklet contains 13 pages

Reading Comprehension (20 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions that follow

"There was nothing to do but wait. At last Lila and her sisters heard the throbbing of the drum and the long eerie blasts on the trumpet. The medicine-man was near! He was preceded by the little cow that he dressed in necklaces of beads and an embroidered cloth. He was a sharp- looking man and he kept all kinds of powders and pills in packets tied into the folds of his white dhoti and his pink turban. With these he treated the villagers for their boils, aches and fevers. All this gave him the air of a magician which made the girls shiver slightly when they heard him approach. He raised his hand in the air and gave another long blast on his trumpet.

Lila came running out of the house and spoke to the man.

"My mother is ill. She has been ill for a long time. Now she has fever too. Have you any medicine for fever? Have you any medicine for making her strong? She is so weak", Lila explained. "Slowly, slowly daughter. What is the hurry? First I must have water for my cow- fresh well water. Next, I must have grass for her. Fresh, tender grass. Then I will come and see your mother."

So that was how things had to be done. After the cow had been looked after, he too demanded attention. Lila had to give him tea which he sipped, sitting down under the frangipani tree while the girls stood before him and told him how their mother was growing weaker and weaker. She was refusing to eat and was unable to get up at all. "And now she is hot with fever", Lila wailed suddenly, no longer able to speak calmly.

The man looked at her with his sharp, bright eyes. He got up quickly and started being very busy. To their surprise he did not go in to see their mother as they had expected he would. Instead, he ordered them to build a fire. He wanted a particular kind of wood and the sticks had to be laid just so. Once the fire started crackling, he flung in packets of flowers that he took from a bag on the cow's back- jasmine, marigold, hibiscus and frangipani. He recited a long prayer in a sing-song voice while he did so. When the fire had died down, he poked at it with a long stick, scattering the ashes so that they cooled. Then he scooped them up into his hand and asked for water. He poured a little into the palm of

his hand and with one thumb and forefingers he mixed it with the ash. Then he went in to see their mother at last.

She was lying on her side with her eyes closed. When he spoke to her, she turned over and opened her eyes in fear. Lila put her hand on her mother's forehead and spoke to her soothingly. The man told her to open her mouth and put out her tongue which she did, and on it dropped some of the ash. "Eat, sister", he said. "Holy ash will purify you within. It will drive away the demons that create the fever. Swallow." He kept rolling small balls of ash between his fingers and dropping them into her mouth, making her swallow them. Then he clapped his hands together and walked out.

The girls followed, dazed.

"Sweep up all that ash. Collect it. Bring it to me", he ordered, and they obeyed. He pulled some leaves out of his bag and made them put the ash on the leaves, then rolled them up and tied them into neat packets with bits of thread which he pulled out of his turban. "Here", he said, handing them to the girls. "Go and put one packet under her pillow. It will drive away the fever-demon. Go and put the others under your own pillows. It will keep you safe from the demons. I have blessed it". He blew on his trumpet.

He then stared down into their faces and looked very fierce. "So?" he shouted at them. "Got nothing to give me but your stares? Think I can fill my stomach with your stares? Think I do it all for free?"

Lila ran into the hut. Bela and Kamal stared after her, knowing there was no money. But she came out with something in her hand and when she handed it over the girls saw what it was-the ring their mother used to wear when she was well. The girls gave a little gasp of astonishment but the man merely snatched it out of Lila's hand, stared at it and then at them. He tucked it away and marched off towards his cow without a word of thanks.

The girls were left staring at the leaf-packets in their hands. "What shall we do with them?" Bela and Kamal asked. Lila clutched the one in her hand as if she wanted to tear it apart.

"What *can* we do?" she cried. "We can't do anything-we have to listen to him. There's no hospital in the village we could take her to, and no doctor who would come. We have no one but the magic man to help us. Magic!" She said fiercely and marched into the hut to do what the man had told her to."

From "Village by the Sea" by Anita Desai

Questions

Answer all of the following questions in your own words in the spaces provided:

1. Why didn't the medicine man go and see the children's mother straightaway? Give 3 reasons (3 marks).

2. Explain how the medicine man makes the little balls of ash which he gave to the children's mother. (2 marks)

3. How were the packets of ash to be used, according to the medicine man's instructions? (2 marks).

4. What were the children doing when the medicine man said "Got nothing to give me but your stares?" What did he want? (2 marks)

5. What did Lila give the medicine man? Why do you think she gave him this? (2 marks).

Explain the following words as they are used in the passage: (4 marks)

- a) Companions
- b) Entertained
- c) Successful
- d) Amazement

Section C: Grammar usage (25 marks)

Underline the correct word in bold in each sentence: (7 marks)

Example: She had **fewer/less** time than he on the computer.

Answer: She had **fewer/less** time than he did on the computer.

1. I did not have as **much/many** complaints as she did.
2. **Many/much** spectators agreed with her actions.
3. I do not have as **much/many** money as he does.
4. **A few/ little** information was given out about the crash.
5. **Little/few** hope was given of a rescue.
6. **Less/Fewer** bargain hunters came this time.
7. **Fewer/less** knowledge was needed for this examination.

Choose a verb that would fit the gaps in the following sentences. **Make sure that there is correct subject-verb agreement:** (9 marks)

Example: It _____ a mistake to give a puppy as a present.

Answer: It **is** a mistake to give a puppy as a present.

1. Dogs _____ loyal pets and _____ their owners lots of affection.
2. Children _____ puppies and every child would _____ a puppy as a present.
3. Dogs _____ more attention than cats, that _____ more independent.
4. Most households _____ at least one pet, usually a dog or a cat.
5. Dogs _____ going for exercise and definitely _____ daily walks.

Complete the following sentences with an appropriate relative pronoun, *who, which, that, when, why, where, what*. **There is sometimes more than one possibility but make sure you only write one word in each line.** (9 marks)

Example: Until I was eight we lived in a village called Stanway, _____ is now a suburb of Colchester.

Answer: Until I was eight we lived in a village called Stanway, *which* is now a suburb of Colchester.

1. The school _____ I went to was a twenty-minute walk away.
2. Although it was near, it was up a big hill, _____ is why my sister and I always arrived out of breath.
3. I got on well with my sister Emily, _____ is two years younger than me.
4. We had a big garden _____ we played when we weren't at school.
5. Our parents, _____ both worked hated having to spend so much time gardening.
6. That's the reason _____ the garden of our second house was so small.
7. We used to visit our relatives in London on Sunday; _____ my parents had the day off.
8. My father, _____ was an only child hated visiting my mother's family.
9. Nevertheless, we always ended up doing _____ my mother wanted.

