

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL, NICOSIA

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2011

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

YEAR 1

Near 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 !! This booklet contains 12 pages

Total: 100 marks

Section A: Reading and Comprehension (25 marks)

Read the following passage and answer all the questions that follow as carefully and accurately as possible:

All the women, or rather the witches, were now sitting motionless in their chairs and staring as though hypnotized at somebody who had suddenly appeared on the platform. That somebody was another woman.

The first thing I noticed about this woman was her size. She was tiny, probably no more than four and a half feet tall. She looked quite young, I guessed about twenty-five or six, and she was very pretty. She had on a rather stylish long black dress that reached right to the ground and she wore black gloves that came up to her elbows. Unlike the others, she wasn't wearing a hat.

She didn't look to me like a witch at all, but she couldn't possibly *not* be one, otherwise what on earth was she doing up there on the platform? And why, for heaven's sake, were all the other witches gazing at her with such a mixture of adoration, awe and fear?

Very slowly, the young lady on the platform raised her hands to her face. I saw her gloved fingers unhooking something behind her ears, and then....then she caught hold of her cheeks and lifted her face clean away! The whole of that pretty face came away in her hands! It was a mask!

As she took off the mask, she turned sideways and placed it carefully upon a small table nearby, and when she turned round again and faced us, I very nearly screamed out loud.

That face of hers was the most frightful and frightening thing I have ever seen. Just looking at it gave me the shakes all over. It was so crumpled and wizened, so shrunken and shriveled; it looked as though it had been pickled in vinegar. It was a fearsome and ghastly sight. There was something terribly wrong with it, something foul and putrid and decayed. It seemed quite literally to be rotting away at the edges, and in the middle of the face, around the mouth and cheeks, I could see the skin all cankered and worm-eaten, as though maggots were working away in there.

There are times when something is so frightful you become mesmerized by it and can't look away. I was like that now. I was transfixed. I was numbed. I was magnetized by the sheer horror of this woman's features. But there was more to it than that. There was a look of serpents in those eyes of hers as they flashed around the audience.

I knew immediately, of course, that this was none other than The Grand High Witch herself. I knew also why she had worn a mask. She could never have moved around in public, let alone book in at a hotel, with her real face. Everyone who saw her would have run away screaming.

"The doors!" shouted the Grand High Witch in a voice that filled the room and bounced around the walls. "Are they chained and bolted?"

"The doors are chained and bolted, Your Grandness," answered a voice in the audience.

The brilliant snake's eyes that were set so deep in that dreadful rotting worm-eaten face glared unblinkingly at the witches who sat facing her. Her voice, I noticed, had that same hard metallic quality as the voice of the witch I had met under the conker tree, only it was far louder and much much harsher. It rasped. It grated. It snarled. It scraped. It shrieked. And it growled.

From "*The Witches*" by Roald Dahl.

Comprehension : (15 marks)

1. Why do you think the witches were staring at the woman 'as though hypnotized'? (2 marks)

2. What made the woman different from the others? (2 marks)

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3. Choose one detail that you find particularly interesting about the woman (1 mark)

4. Choose five words from the text which show how the narrator feels when the Grand High Witch takes off her mask (5 marks).

5. Why do you think the writer says 'she could never have moved around in public, let alone book in at a hotel, with her real face.'? (2 marks).

6. Choose 3 words from the text which show how the narrator feels when he hears the Grand High Witch's voice. (3 marks)

Directed writing (10 marks)

Write, in no more than 100-150 words, the narrator's thoughts after he has met the Grand High Witch.

Then Theseus, Ariadne and the others escaped without further o_____ from King Minos.

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.

