

The English School

Mid-Entry Examination 2023

English – *Year 2*

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

Marks Allocated:

Section A: Comprehension (25 marks)

Section B: Composition (25 marks)

Good Luck!



Section A: Comprehension

(25 marks)

The following extract is written from the perspective of Zafra, the narrator, who wants to fight the whole world until she gets what she wants.



I was born in a storm. The sky cracked with lightning and thunder shook the sea. The rain lashed the cliffs and it was like the whole world had tipped upside down and the ocean was falling from the sky. The weather was furious and so was I. The midwife said she'd never seen such an angry baby and in all the photographs I am a red-faced ball of fury and my fists are clenched and my mouth is a shouting O. I sometimes feel like that storm blasted its way into me.

That's what Dad says too when I'm being loud and rowdy and raucous and shouty. Which is a lot of the time apparently. But I feel a spark and rumble inside me and it's like the storm is stretching itself and waking up. Sometimes it goes back to sleep. And sometimes it really doesn't. And that's when Dad says things get turbulent.

Dad and I are a pair. Two peas in a pod. Two halves of a whole. Two guinea pigs in a hutch. I once read that you can't ever have one guinea pig because it'll be so lonely that it might die. In Switzerland it's actually illegal. I can't imagine being sent to prison and locked up day and night because you only had one guinea pig but I guess that's what happens. Anyway even though guinea pigs will die of loneliness, if you try to introduce a new guinea pig into the hutch then the other one will attack it and probably bite its head off or something. I'm happy with a dog and a cat.

Dad and I like most of the same stuff. Well, he doesn't like very loud music or wearing gold Doc Martens or eating twenty Oreos in a row but he loves the sea and jokes and watching really really bad TV and spicy food and graphic novels. And he might actually like Oreos but he's never quick enough to find out.

20 Dad and I live in a cottage with sloping stone walls and a bright yellow front door and a front garden full of every wild flower in existence ever. If you look out of the windows or stand in the garden or just look up then you can't just see the sea but you can hear it and smell it and sometimes you can taste it too.

25 Our cottage looks like something out of a picture book. It has roses around the door that I used to make spells and potions with when my best friend Dommo and I were little, and it has a winding path up to its yellow door. It's the kind of cottage from that kind of book where you see a mum and a dad and a little girl and maybe a dog that can fetch slippers and it's a perfect little life. And that's what it's like. Well, we have the dog but he's more likely to eat slippers than fetch them and Mum died when I was a baby but otherwise it's exactly what it's like.

30 I wouldn't change a thing about our lives right now.

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

1. Describe the weather when Zafia was born. List three details.

- _____
- _____
- _____

(3 marks)

2. Use the information in the text to decide whether these statements are true or false.

	True	False
Zafia likes her life as it is.		
Zafia and her father are very different.		
The house they live in is picture-perfect.		
Zafia deals with life in a very calm manner.		

(4 marks)

3. a) **Using your own words**, explain what Zafia means when she says 'I feel like the storm blasted its way into me' (line 5).

(2 marks)

b) How does she show this side of her character? Give 4 details from lines 6-9.

(4 marks)

4. **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by:

i. 'The weather was furious.' (line 3)

(2 marks)

ii. 'And that's when dad says things get turbulent.' (line 8-9)

(2 marks)

iii. 'Two peas in a pod.' (line 10)

(2 marks)

5. Give the meaning of the underlined words in the following three phrases, as the writer uses them in the passage.

i. 'my fists are clenched' (line 4)

Meaning of the underlined word as the writer uses it: _____

(1 mark)

ii. 'I am being loud and rowdy and raucous and shouty.' (line 6)

Meaning of the underlined words as the writer uses them:

Rowdy: _____

Raucous: _____

(2 mark)

6. Choose the sentence below which uses negatives correctly.

- a. I didn't take nothing.
- b. He doesn't have no time.
- c. We haven't heard anything.
- d. She ain't left yet.

(2 marks)

7. Choose the preposition in the following sentence.

We ate near the sea.

- a. We
- b. ate
- c. near
- d. sea

(1 mark)

Section B: Composition

(25 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following questions and write about 300-350 words.

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story with the title 'The Change'.

You should:

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

OR

Descriptive

2. Describe a party you are a guest at.

You should:

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

12 marks are available for the **content and structure** of your writing

13 marks are available for the **style and accuracy** of your writing.

