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 NUMER 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 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) | | |
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| 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) |
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| 4. | Choose five words from the text which show how the narrator feels when the Grand High Witch takes off her mask (5 marks). |
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| 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). |
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| 6. | Choose 3 words from the text which show how the narrator feels when he hears the Grand High Witch's voice. (3 marks) |
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| | Directed writing (10 marks) |
| | Write, in no more than 100-150 words, the narrator's thoughts after he has met |

the Grand High Witch.

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| Section B: Vocabulary Usage (20 marks) |
| Insert the appropriate words from the box below into the blank spaces in the following passage; some of the words have already been started for you. (16 marks) |
| Entertained, cautiously, discovered, opportunity, muscles, hid, opposition, congratulated, amazement, noticed, beautiful, victory, attack, successful, forced, palace. |
| Theseus and his companions werefor one night at theof |
| King Minos. Then they wereto enter the labyrinth. The king's |
| daughter, Ariadne, gave Theseus some wool and a sword, which he |
| under his cloak. Unwinding the wool as he cadvanced, Theseus |
| at lastthe Minotaur. He nto his |
| that the Minotaur had the head of a bull and the body of a giant. When the creature began |
| to him, Theseus seized the o to bury his sword in the thick |
| of the creature's neck. After thisover the monster, |
| Theseus's companionshim on theoutcome of his adventure. |
| 6 |

| Then Theseus, Ariadne and the others escaped without further o | from King | | | |
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| Minos. | | | | |
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| Explain the following words as they are used in the passage: (4 marks) | | | | |
| a) Companions | | | | |
| b) Entertained | | | | |
| c) Successful | | | | |
| d) Amazement | | | | |
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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/<u>less</u>** 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)

| Ex | ample: Ita mistake to give a puppy as a present. |
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| Ar | swer: It is a mistake to give a puppy as a present. |
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| 1 | Dogsloyal pets andtheir owners lots of affection. |
| | Childrenpuppies and every child woulda puppy as a present. |
| | Dogsmore attention than cats, thatmore independent. |
| | Most householdsat least one pet, usually a dog or a cat. |
| | Dogsgoing for exercise and definitelydaily walks. |
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| • | ete the following sentences with an appropriate relative pronoun, who, which, that, |
| | why, where, what. There is sometimes more than one possibility but make sure ly write one word in each line. (9 marks) |
| - | le: Until I was eight we lived in a village called Stanway,is now a suburb |
| Answe | r: Until I was eight we lived in a village called Stanway, which is now a suburb of |
| Colche | ster. |
| 1. | The schoolI went to was a twenty-minute walk away. |
| | 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. |
| | We had a big gardenwe played when we weren't at school. |
| | Our parents,both worked hated having to spend so much time |
| | gardening. |
| 6. | That's the reasonthe garden of our second house was so small. |
| | 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. |
| | Nevertheless, we always ended up doingmy mother wanted. |

Section D: Writing task (30 marks).

Choose one of the following questions and write between 150-200 words. Make sure you:

- Plan your answer carefully, consider paragraphs and linking sentences
- Use accurate expression and grammar usage
- Use appropriate and engaging vocabulary

3. Describe a day you spent in a castle.

- Use interesting opening and closing paragraphs.
- You are advised to spend between 20-25 minutes on this section.
- You are a tourist in Cyprus. This is your second day here and you are very excited about the people, the food, the weather and the places you have visited so far.
 Write a diary entry in which you express your thoughts and feelings about what you have experienced.
- 2. Write about your most precious possession, describing it and saying why it is so precious for you. Make sure you include plenty of descriptive detail.

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