

LATE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2012

YEAR 2

ENGLISH

Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Instructions:

- Answer all the questions on the exam paper.
- Make sure you check your work carefully for errors in spelling, expression and grammar usage.
- Answer each question as clearly and as neatly as possible.

Good Luck!

Comprehension:

(20 marks)

Read the following extract from *Matilda* by Roald Dahl and answer the questions that follow. Make sure that your answers are in full sentences. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.

"Get on with it then," Mrs. Wormwood said.

'I'm sure you know,' Miss Honey said, 'that children in the bottom class at school, are not expected to be able to read or spell or juggle with numbers when they first arrive. Five-year olds cannot do that. But Matilda can do it all. And if I am to believe her...'

'I wouldn't', Mrs. Wormwood said. She was still ratty at losing the sound on the TV.

'Was she lying, then', Miss Honey said, 'when she told me that nobody taught her to multiply or to read? Did either of you teach her?'

'Teach her what? Mr. Wormwood said.

'To read. To read books,' Miss Honey said. 'Perhaps you did teach her. Perhaps she was lying. Perhaps you have shelves full of books all over the house. I wouldn't know. Perhaps you are both great readers.'

'Of course we read', Mr. Wormwood said. 'Don't be so daft. I read the *Autocar* and the *Motor* from cover to cover every week.'

'This child has already read an astonishing number of books', Miss Honey said. 'I was simply trying to find out if she came from a family that loved good literature'.

'We don't hold with book-reading', Mr. Wormwood said. 'You can't make a living from sitting on your fanny and reading story-books. We don't keep them in the house'.

'I see', Miss Honey said. 'Well, all I came to tell you was that Matilda has a brilliant mind. But I expect you knew that already'.

'Of course I knew she could read', the mother said. 'She spends her life up in her room buried in some silly book'.

'But does it not intrigue you', Miss Honey said, 'that a little five-year-old child is reading long adult novels by Dickens and Hemingway? Doesn't that make you jump up and down with excitement?'

'Not particularly', the mother said. 'I'm not in favour of blue stocking girls. A girl should think about making herself look attractive so she can get a good husband later on. Looks is more important than books, Miss Hunky....'

'The name is Honey', Miss Honey said.

'Now look at *me*,' Mrs. Wormwood said. 'Then look at *you*. You chose books. I chose looks.'

Miss Honey looked at the plain plump person with the smug suet-pudding face who was sitting across the room. 'What did you say?' she asked.

'I said you chose books and I chose looks', Mrs. Wormwood said. 'And who's finished up the better off? Me, of course. I'm sitting pretty in a nice house with a successful businessman and you're slaving away teaching a lot of nasty children the ABC.'

'Quite right, sugar plum', Mr. Wormwood said, casting a look of such simpering sloppiness at his wife it would have made a cat sick.

Miss Honey decided that if she was going to get anywhere with these people she must not lose her temper. 'I haven't told you all of it yet', she said. 'Matilda, so far as I can gather at this early stage, is also a kind of mathematical genius. She can multiply complicated figures in her head like lightning.'

'What's the point of that when you can buy a calculator?' Mr. Wormwood said.

'A girl doesn't get a man by being brainy,' Mrs. Wormwood said. 'Look at that film star for instance', she added, pointing at the silent TV screen, where a bosomy female was being embraced by a craggy actor in the moonlight. 'You don't think she got him to do that by multiplying figures at him do you? Not likely. And now he's going to marry her, you see if he doesn't and she's going to live in a mansion with a butler and lots of maids'.

Miss Honey could hardly believe what she was hearing. She had heard that parents like this existed all over the place and that their children turned out to be delinquents and drop-outs, but it was still a shock to meet a pair of them in the flesh.

'Matilda's trouble', she said trying once again, 'is that she is so far ahead of everyone else around her that it might be worth thinking about some extra kind of private tuition. I seriously believe that she could be brought up to university standard in two or three years with the proper coaching.'

'University?' Mr. Wormwood shouted, bouncing up on his chair. 'Who wants to go to university, for heaven's sake! All they learn is bad habits!'

Questions

1. Why does Miss Honey decide to visit Matilda's parents and what does this tell us about Miss Honey as a person and teacher?

(4 marks)

2. What does Miss Honey expect from Matilda's parents before the visit and in what way does this change after she meets them?

(3 marks)

3. What was Matilda's parents' reaction to what Miss Honey told them and what does this tell us about their attitude to education and success?

(4 marks)

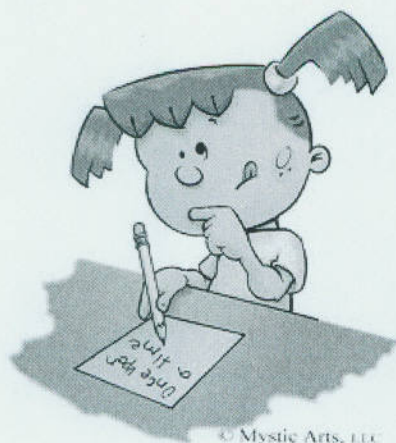
4. How does Roald Dahl make this part of the story interesting and enjoyable? Give examples to support your answer.

(4 marks)

5. Explain the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passage:

- Astonishing _____
- Ratty _____
- Intrigue _____
- Smug _____
- Slaving away _____

(5 marks)



Vocabulary and Usage:

(25 marks)

A. Underline the correct word/phrase.

Example: This is the best **desert/ dessert** I've ever had.

1. He **lent/borrowed** the book from the library.
2. What did the dressmaker **cost/charge** you?
3. Could you please **do/make** me a favour?
4. **At/In** the end of the story, they got married.
5. I haven't seen him **since/for** he graduated from school.
6. What did the thieves **rob/steal** from you?
7. He **said/told** a lie and was therefore punished.
8. The fire broke **up/out** in a large warehouse and the fire brigade was called **out/in**.
9. Did you **do/make** a complaint about the service?

(5 marks)

B. Complete the following sentences with an appropriate word or phrase.

Example: Why don't you _____ a ring and invite him to your party?

Answer: Why don't you give him a ring and invite him to your party?

1. He will give her your message if he _____.
2. Why don't we _____ next Saturday?
3. Could you please tell me how _____?
4. Did you take _____ the school concert last week?

5. He _____ didn't he?
6. I'm looking forward to _____ when I come to Cyprus.
7. Stop _____ all the time!
8. I ran to help as _____ drowning.
9. The children enjoyed _____ at the party.
10. When _____ get married?
11. It isn't worth _____ that book. It's extremely boring!
12. How long ago _____ your grandparents?
13. How long _____ you went on holiday?
14. The last time _____ when I was five.
15. _____, aren't I?
16. This small car isn't _____ the Porsche.
17. How about _____ to Spain this year?
18. Neither Helen _____ were happy at the elementary school.
19. She _____ for two at the Italian restaurant.
20. While we _____ we saw a serious accident.

(10 marks)

C. Give the noun:

Example: to excite Answer: excitement

1. Describe _____
2. Employ _____
3. Horrible _____
4. Lose _____
5. Bury _____
6. Appoint _____
7. Behave _____
8. Try _____
9. Pollute _____
10. Deep _____

(5 marks)

D. Write a short sentence with each of these words/phrases (without changing their form) to show that you know their meaning. The first sentence has been done for you.

Example: Invented: Who invented the telephone?

1. Filled _____
2. Hardly any _____
3. At first sight _____
4. In time _____
5. Felt _____

(5 marks)



Write the description of a friend or a member of your family. You should use:

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- This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.