

Mid Programme Entries 2013

Year 2

ENGLISH

Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Instructions

- Answer all the questions on the exam paper
- Write your answers in the space provided
- Read the instructions carefully
- Answer each question as clearly and as neatly as possible.

Good Luck!



Section A: Reading Comprehension (20 marks)

The following extract comes from the beginning of a short story called “Something” by Joan Aiken.

When the thing happened for the first time, I was digging up wild lilies to plant in my own little garden. Digging up wild lilies. A happy task. They are dark orange and grow down by the narrow **shallow brook** that freezes solid in winter. On that day it was babbling and murmuring quietly and I sang a song, which I made up as I went along, to keep company with its murmur. “Wild lilies I find wild lilies I bring, wild lilies, wild lilies, to flower in the spring.” Overhead the trees arched, and water-birds, becoming used to my harmless presence, called their short answers. Once or twice a kingfisher flashed. There were trout in the water, but only tiny ones; I could feel them brush against my bare legs every now and then as I **waded** knee-deep along the course of the brook, which made an easier route than the tangled banks.

At the end of the whole afternoon spent in this way my mind felt bare, washed clean, like the stones in the brook. And then- suddenly: fear. Where did it come from? I had no way of knowing. Cold fear was all around me- in the dark arch of the trees, the tunnel they made (into which the stream vanished), the sharp croak of birds, the icy grip of the water on my calves, the gritty scour of mud on my **grimed** and scraped hands, But, most of all, in my own mind, as if, down at the back of it, stood something hidden, watchful, waiting. In another minute I would go mad from terror.

Frenzied with haste to be away from there I scrambled up the bank, snatching my trowel and the wooden bucket in which I had been putting my lily roots-dropping half of them; **panic-stricken**, never looking back, I thrust and opened a track through the trees and the thorns, tearing my shirt, scratching my arms and face. Mother would be furious, but I never gave that a thought. All I wanted was to get home-home –home to Grandfather’s **comforting** presence. Barefoot I ran over the ploughed field, stubbing my toes on rocks, knocking on brambles, ignoring the pain. Tonight I would need to spend hours pulling out the thorns, painfully one by one. Tonight was not now. Now if I did not find Grandfather I would die of fear.

Luckily he was always to be found in the same place; sitting on a backless chair with his dog Flag beside him, outside the shop where my uncles Josef and Willi worked. A great grey cart-horse waited patiently outside. I ran and clung tight to Grandfather. He felt frail and bony, and smelt, as always, of straw and old-man's odour, and sweet tobacco.

'Grandfather-Grandfather- 'I gulped.

Holding me in his thin strong hands he looked at me long and deeply with his faded shrunken eyes.

'So it's happened, has it?'

'Yes. Yes. It has. But what is it, Grandfather? What has happened?'

'Easy. Easy!' He soothed me with his voice as if I had been a panicky fool. 'It was bound to come it always does. Your father-your brothers-now you. All our family. It always happens, sooner or later.'

'But what? But what?'

'Come along, 'said my grandfather. 'We'll walk to the church'. He put his hand on my shoulder to pull him in a walking position, and then kept it there, for balance. He was very stooped, and walked with a limp; still for his years, he was as strong as an old root.

We went slowly along the village street. Flowers were in bloom. Apples on the trees were almost ripe. The sky was cloudless, in the mornings and evenings now, mist lay thick in the valley. It was September.

'Winter is coming,' said my grandfather.

'Yes, Grandfather.'

'Winter is a kind of night,' he said.' For months we are prisoners here in the village. As, at night, we are shut in our homes. The next village is a world's end away. Night is a kind of death'.



Answer the following questions:

1. The first paragraph sets the scene. Where does the story take place? (1 mark)

2. What time of the day is it? (1 mark)

3. Who is the narrator? (1 mark)

4. In paragraph 3, the narrator feels fear. What is it that is frightening him? (2 marks)

5. How effective is the title of the story? Explain why. (2 marks)

6. What do we learn about the character of the boy? Use **one** quotation which tells us about his character. (3 marks)

7. What do we learn about the character of the grandfather? Write **one** quotation which tells us about his character. (3 marks)

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

- Shallow brook _____
- Waded _____
- Grimed _____
- Panic-stricken _____
- Comforting _____

(5 marks)

9. Identify one simile from the passage:

(2 marks)



A kingfisher

Section B: Usage (10 marks)

Put the verb into the correct form, **present continuous or present simple**.

1. Let's go out. _____ (it/not/rain) now.
2. Julia is very good at languages. _____ (she/speak) four languages very well.
3. Hurry up! _____ (everybody/wait) for you.
4. The River Nile _____ (flow) into the Mediterranean.
5. Can we stop walking soon? _____ (I/start) to feel tired.
6. My parents _____ (live) in London. They were born there and have never lived anywhere else.
7. Rachel is in New York right now. _____ (she/stay) at the Park Hotel.
8. Look! That man _____ (try) to open the door of your car.
9. Sonia _____ (look) for a place to live. _____ (she/stay) with her sister until she finds somewhere. (5 marks)

Complete the following sentences using either **some** or **any**.

1. We didn't buy _____ flowers for her.
2. Tonight I am going out with _____ friends of mine.
3. I didn't have _____ money, so I had to borrow _____.
4. Can I have _____ milk in my coffee, please?
5. He did everything himself, without _____ help.
6. You can use this card to withdraw money at _____ cash machine.
7. I'd like _____ information about places of interest in the town.
8. With the special tourist ticket, you can travel on _____ train you like.
9. Those apples look nice. Shall we buy _____? (5 marks)



Section C: Writing Task (20 marks)

Choose one of the following questions and write between 150-250 words. Keep in mind the importance of:

- Using **imaginative ideas** that will keep your reader interested
- Planning your answer carefully, considering the way you use paragraphs and link ideas
- Writing **interesting opening and closing paragraphs**
- Using **appropriate and creative vocabulary**
- Using **accurate grammar and expression**

Descriptive

Describe a time when you lied to your parents and how this had some very unpleasant consequences.

Narrative

Write an imaginary story that takes place in an enormous attic. The main characters in the story are: two children, an old woman, a spider and a rabbit.

Title: _____
