

Mid Programme Entries 2014

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.



Comprehension (20 marks)

Read the following extract from *Animal Farm* by George Orwell and answer the questions that follow.

- Make sure your answers are in full sentences.
- You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.



“All that year the animals worked like slaves. But they were happy in their work; they grudged no effort or sacrifice, well aware that everything that they did was for the benefit of themselves and those of their kind who would come after them, and not for a pack of idle, thieving human beings.

Throughout the spring and summer they worked a sixty-hour week, and in August Napoleon announced that there would be work on Sunday afternoons as well. This work was strictly voluntary, but any animal who absented himself from it would have his rations reduced by half. Even so, it was found necessary to leave certain tasks undone. The harvest was a little less successful than in the previous year, and two fields which should have been sown with roots in the early summer were not sown because the ploughing had not been completed early enough. It was possible to foresee that the coming winter would be a hard one.

The windmill presented unexpected difficulties. There was a good quarry of limestone on the farm, and plenty of sand and cement had been found in one of the outhouses, so that all the materials for building were at hand. But the problem the animals could not at first solve was how to break up the stones into pieces of suitable size. There seemed no way of doing this except with picks and crowbars, which no animal could use, because no animal could stand on his hind legs. Only after weeks of vain effort did the right idea occur to somebody—namely, to utilize the force of gravity. Huge boulders, far too big to be used as they were, were lying all over the bed of the quarry. The animals lashed ropes round these, and then all together, cows, horses, sheep, any animal that could lay hold of the rope—even the pigs themselves sometimes joined in at critical moments—they dragged them with desperate slowness up the slope to the top of the quarry, where they were toppled over the edge, to

shatter to pieces below. Transporting the stone when it was once broken was comparatively simple. The horses carried it off in cart-loads, the sheep dragged single blocks, and even Muriel and Benjamin yoked themselves into an old governess-cart and did their share. By late summer a sufficient store of stone had accumulated, and then the building began, under the superintendence of the pigs.

But it was a slow, laborious process. Frequently it took a whole day of exhausting effort to drag a single boulder to the top of the quarry, and sometimes when it was pushed over the edge it failed to break. Nothing could have been achieved without Boxer, whose strength seemed equal to that of all the rest of the animals put together. When the boulder began to slip and the animals cried out in despair at finding themselves dragged down the hill, it was always Boxer who strained himself against the rope and brought the boulder to a stop. To see him toiling up the slope inch by inch, his breath coming fast, the tips of his hoofs clawing at the ground, and his great sides matted with sweat, filled everyone with admiration. Clover warned him sometimes to be careful not to overstrain himself, but Boxer would never listen to her. His two slogans, "I will work harder" and "Napoleon is always right" seemed to him a sufficient answer to all problems. He had made arrangements with the cockerel to call him three-quarters of an hour earlier in the morning instead of half an hour. And in his spare moments, of which there were not many nowadays, he would go alone to the quarry, collect a load of broken stone, and drag it down to the site of the windmill unassisted.

The animals were not badly off throughout that summer, in spite of the hardness of their work. If they had no more food than they had had in Jones's day, at least they did not have less. The advantage of only having to feed themselves, and not having to support five human beings as well, was so great that it would have taken a lot of failures to outweigh it".



1. Who did the animals work for and why?

(4 marks)

1. Why did Napoleon tell the animals that they had to work on Sundays as well?

(2 marks)

2. What would happen to the animals if they didn't work on Sundays?

(1 mark)

3. Why did the animals have trouble breaking the stones to build the windmill? How did they solve the problem?

(3 marks)

4. How did Boxer help the other animals?

(2 marks)

5. List two things that Boxer did to help the animals build the windmill.

(2 marks)

6. Find an example of a simile in the passage and write it below:

(2 marks)

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

- Sacrifice _____
- Windmill _____
- Toppled _____
- Laborious _____

(4 marks)



Vocabulary and Usage: (10 marks)

Fill in the blanks with the correct **preposition** like in the example:

Example: They ran out of money when they lost their business and had to fall _____ on their savings.

Answer: They ran out of money when they lost their business and had to fall back on their savings.

1. The teacher got a black eye when he tried to break _____ a fight between two students.
2. Oh, I'm terribly sorry. I mistook you _____ someone else.
3. It's no good running. You have to face up _____ your responsibilities.
4. I'm sorry. I didn't mean _____ hurt your feelings.
5. I'll lend you the money _____ condition you give it back before the weekend.

(5 marks)

Choose one of the four words/phrases that best suits the sentence. Underline your answer.

Example: He _____ being given a receipt for the bill he had paid.

- A. asked to B. demanded C. insisted on D. required

1. I walked away as calmly as I could _____ they thought I was the thief.

- A. or else B. to avoid C. owing to D. in case

2. But why did the police suspect you? It does not make _____ to me.

- A. reason B. right C. sense D. truth

3. He's such a naughty child; it's amazing what his mother lets him _____ away with.

- A. go B. make C. do D. get

4. The noise of the traffic prevented me from _____ to sleep.

- A. getting B. starting C. beginning D. going


