



Entrance Examination

SAMPLE PAPER

11+ (Year 7)

English

Paper 1: Comprehension

Your name:

Date of birth:

Today's date:

Age:

YEARS

MONTHS

Please read the following information before the examination starts.

- You have 5 minutes' reading time.
- After that you may start writing your answers when you are ready to do so. You have 30 minutes for writing. Write your answers on the lined paper provided.
- Number of marks available: 20.

Read carefully the passage printed below and answer the questions that follow, using your own words as far as possible and writing in complete sentences. Notice how many marks are available for each question.

The passage is taken from Seal Morning, an autobiographical book by Rowena Farr, in which she recounts the time she spent living with her aunt on a lonely farm (called a croft) in the north of Scotland. She enjoyed being close to nature, especially seeing the seals, but life there could be hard and dangerous, as this extract shows.

A change had come over the sky since I had last taken note of it: the blue was not so intense and thin vaporous clouds were forming. Down a cleft of the corrie blew a long streamer of mist. The sight of it made me double my pace. I remembered then that I had come without a compass as I had not planned when setting out to go so high or so far.

5 More and more clouds were forming in the sky and puffs of mist, less vaporous now, blew with increasing frequency into the corrie. There was always the possibility that a mist would disperse as suddenly as it had come; on the other hand, it was equally possible for it to last hours or even days. I started to run, not as yet from any sense of panic, but because I realised it was important to reach the end of the corrie quickly and get a good
10 view of my bearings. I was about five miles from home, high up in the hills. As I started down the hill, keeping my eyes on the boulder - my immediate destination - and trying at the same time to avoid rocks and loose scree, the mist swept over the brow of the hill and enveloped me, blotting out every landmark and object excepting those within a few feet. On walks with Ben I would often call "Home!" to him when the time came to retrace
15 our steps, so that he would know I was returning. Now I spoke the word to him and trusted he would have the initiative to take upon himself the task of leading us back to the croft. For what seemed ages he continued to sit without making a move. "Home!" I repeatedly urged.

20 At last he got up and with no sign of hurry began to walk forward; I followed, clinging to the lead as a drowning person might cling to a length of driftwood. We continued to walk forwards at a slow pace. As the damp grasses flicked round my ankles I expected at any moment to sink into a swamp.

Now answer these questions.

1. (a) How does Rowena Farr first realise that the weather is changing? **1 mark**
(b) How does she see that it is worsening? **1 mark**
2. How does she react to these changes? **2 marks**
3. (a) What item has she not taken with her which would be useful now? **1 mark**
(b) Why did she not take this? **1 mark**
4. What does she know about mists in that region? **2 marks**
5. Where is she when the weather changes? **2 marks**
6. Apart from the weather, what other difficulties and dangers does she have? **2 marks**
7. (a) Why is Ben's behaviour surprising? **2 marks**
(b) How does Rowena Farr show that this increased her anxiety? **1 mark**

(questions continue overleaf)

8. (a) Why does Rowena Farr compare herself to a drowning person (in line 20)? **1 mark**
- (b) What is the term we use for this sort of comparison? **1 mark**
9. From your reading of the passage, choose what you think is the meaning of each of the following words. (Pick your answer from the choice of four possible meanings given for each word.)
- (a) scree (line 12): plants, small stones, bogs, walls **1 mark**
- (b) intense (line 2): interesting, frightening, very thick or strong, pretty **1 mark**
- (c) corrie (line 6): hill, hollow, hole, peak **1 mark**

Total 20 marks



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- Number of marks available: 25.

Read carefully the passage printed below and answer the questions that follow, using your own words as far as possible and writing in complete sentences. Notice how many marks are available for each question.

The passage is taken from Birds, Beasts and Relatives, an autobiographical book by Gerald Durrell, in which he writes about the time in his childhood when his family lived on the Greek island of Corfu. From an early age Durrell was very interested in nature and would often take home animals to study and look after.

“They seem awfully hungry,” she said as she lifted each writhing, squeaking baby out of the box and pushed the end of the teat into its groping, eager mouth.

I said they were always like that. One should take no notice of it. They were just naturally greedy.

5 “Poor little things,” said Margo.

I should have been warned.

I spent an exhilarating week-end. I got myself badly sunburnt, for the fragile spring sun was deceptive, but came back triumphant, with eight heart urchins, four shells new to my collection and a baby sparrow that had fallen out of its nest. At the villa, after I had suffered the barks and licks and nibbles of greeting that the dogs always bestowed upon you if you had been away for more than two hours, I asked Margo eagerly how my baby hedgehogs were.

10 “They’re doing all right now,” she said. “But really, Gerry, I do think you ill-treat your pets. You were starving those poor little things to death. They were so hungry. You’ve no idea.”

15 With a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach, I listened to my sister.

“Ravenous, poor little dears. Do you know, they’ve been taking two bottles each at every feed?”

20 Horrified, I rushed up to my bedroom and pulled the cardboard box out from under my bed. In it lay my four hedgehogs, bloated beyond belief. Their stomachs were so large that they could only paw feebly with their legs without making any progress. They had degenerated into pink sacks full of milk, frosted with spines. They all died that night and Margo wept copiously over their balloon-like corpses. But her grief did not give me any pleasure, for never would my hedgehogs trot obediently at my heels through the olive groves. As a punishment to my over-indulgent sister, I dug four little graves and erected four little crosses in the garden as a permanent reminder, and for four days I did not speak to her.

Now answer these questions. Remember to use your own words, unless asked specifically to use words from the passage. Do not repeat the question.

The narrator = the person telling the story (“I” in the passage)

1. In your own words describe the behaviour of the baby hedgehogs in the first paragraph. **2 marks**
2. What does the narrator’s sister feel is the reason for this behaviour? **2 marks**

(questions continue overleaf)

3. What reason does the narrator give for their behaviour at this point? **2 marks**
4. What does the narrator suggest when he says, “I should have been warned”? **3 marks**
5. Why do you think the narrator enjoyed his week-end so much? **2 marks**
6. What do you understand by the phrase “With a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach’(line 16)? **1 mark**
7. What was it that Margo did that was so awful? **1 mark**
8. How did she feel afterwards? **2 marks**
9. How did the narrator punish his sister? **2 marks**
10. Give one piece of information in the passage that indicates that Durrell and his family are living abroad and not in England. **2 marks**
11. Give the meaning of each of these words as used in the passage:
- (a) *ravenous* (line 17) **1 mark**
 - (b) *copiously* (line 23) **1 mark**
 - (c) *erected* (line 26) **1 mark**
12. Choose one of the images that help you to imagine the appearance of the over-fed hedgehogs and explain why it is effective. **3 marks**

Total 25 marks



Entrance Examination

SAMPLE PAPER

11+ (Year 7)

English

Paper 2: Composition

Your name:

Date of birth:

Today's date:

Age:

YEARS

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Please read the following information before the examination starts.

- You have 5 minutes' reading time.
- Choose ONE topic to write about. The titles are overleaf.
- After 5 minutes you may start writing. You have 30 minutes for writing but you are advised to plan your composition before you write it and to allow yourself 5 minutes to proofread your work when you have finished writing. Write on the lined paper provided.
- Use your best handwriting and take care with spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Number of marks available: 20.

Choose ONE of the following questions and write a composition on it:

1. Lost

Write an account of being lost, or feeling lost. It can be a real or an imaginary experience. Concentrate on description and feelings.

2. My Favourite Place in the World

Write a description of a place which you find very beautiful and/or interesting. Try to capture the special atmosphere of the place - its sights, sounds, smells, the things which make it distinctive. The place you choose does not need to be somewhere abroad.

(Advice: Hotels, shopping centres or theme parks do not usually make good descriptions.)

3. A Person I Admire

Write about such a person. It may or may not be someone known to you personally.

4. The Challenge

Write about a time when you were faced with a difficult challenge. Describe your feelings, both good and bad, and explain what happened. The challenge could be physical, emotional or mental.

5. A Good Read

Write a letter to a friend in which you recommend a book you have been reading recently. Explain why you enjoyed the book but without telling your friend the whole story.

Your composition will be marked for ideas, organisation, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Total 20 marks



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Task

Write about a time when you made a discovery. It could be something interesting, exciting, frightening or amusing. Make sure that you **describe** the discovery in detail so that the reader can picture it and explain your feelings clearly so that the reader can share them. Think carefully about your use of vocabulary.

Total 25 marks