



KENT COLLEGE
————— CANTERBURY —————

YEAR 7

ENGLISH ENTRANCE
PAPER

Specimen

COVER SHEET FOR ENGLISH ENTRANCE PAPER

The test is in 2 parts.

A COMPREHENSION of 40 minutes: comprising 5 minutes reading time and 35 minutes writing time. The students should not write anything during the reading time.

A COMPOSITION of 40 minutes: comprising 5 minutes planning, 30 minutes writing and 5 minutes checking. This piece of work should be quite lengthy.

ENGLISH COMPREHENSION

You have 5 minutes to read the following passage from *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. Bruno, who is 9 years old, and his family have had to move house from the city of Berlin to another part of the country. In this passage, Bruno compares his former home with his new one.

The numbers in brackets are line references.

When he first saw their new house Bruno's eyes opened wide, his mouth made the shape of an O and his arms stretched out at his sides once again. Everything about it seemed to be the exact opposite of their old home and he couldn't believe that they were really going to live there.

The house in Berlin had stood on a quiet street and alongside it (5) were a handful of other big houses like his own, and it was always nice to look at them because they were almost the same as his house but not quite, and other boys lived in them who he played with (if they were friends) or steered clear of (if they were trouble). The new house, however, stood all on its own in an empty, desolate place and there were no other houses (10)

anywhere to be seen, which meant there would be no other families around and no other boys to play with, neither friends nor trouble.

The house in Berlin was enormous, and even though he'd lived there for nine years he was still able to find nooks and crannies that he hadn't fully finished exploring yet. There were even whole rooms – such as (15)

Father's office, which was Out Of Bounds At All Times And No Exceptions – that he had barely been inside. However, the new house had only three floors: a top floor where all three bedrooms were and only one bathroom, a ground floor with a kitchen, a dining room and a new office for Father (which, he presumed, had the same restrictions as the old one), and a basement (20)

where the servants slept.

All around the house in Berlin were other streets of large houses, and when you walked towards the centre of town there were always people strolling along and stopping to chat to each other or rushing around and saying they had no time to stop, not today, not when they had a hundred and (25)

one things to do. There were shops with bright store fronts, and fruit and vegetable stalls with big trays piled high with cabbages, carrots, cauliflowers and corn. Some were overflowing with leeks and mushrooms, turnips and sprouts; others with lettuce and green beans,

courgettes and parsnips. Sometimes he liked to stand in front of these stalls and close his eyes (30)

and breathe in their aromas, feeling his head grow dizzy with the mixed scents of sweetness and life. But there were no other streets around the new house, no one strolling along or rushing around, and definitely no shops or fruit or vegetable stalls. When he closed his eyes, everything around him just felt empty and cold, as if he was in the loneliest place in the world. (35)

The middle of nowhere.

In Berlin there had been tables set out on the street, and sometimes when he walked home from school with Karl, Daniel and Martin, there would be men and women sitting at them, drinking frothy drinks and laughing loudly; the people who sat at these tables must be very funny people, (40)

he always thought, because it didn't matter what they said, somebody always laughed. But there was something about the new house that made Bruno think that no one ever laughed there; that there was nothing to laugh at and nothing to be happy about.

"I think this was a bad idea," said Bruno a few hours after they (45) arrived, while Maria was unpacking his suitcases upstairs. (Maria wasn't the only maid at the new house either: there were three others who were quite skinny and only ever spoke to each other in whispering voices. There was an old man too who, he was told, was there to prepare vegetables every day and wait on them at the dinner table, and who looked very unhappy but also (50) a little angry).

"We don't have the luxury of thinking," snapped Mother, opening a box that contained the set of sixty-four glasses that Grandfather and Grandmother had given her when she married Father. "Some people make all the decisions for us." (55)

Bruno didn't know what she meant by that so he pretended that she'd never said it at all. "I think this was a bad idea," he repeated. "I think the best thing to do would be to forget all about this and just go back home. We can chalk it up to experience," he added, a phrase he had learned recently and was determined to use as often as possible. (60)

Mother smiled and put the glasses down carefully on the table. "I have another phrase for you," she said. "It's that we have to make the best of a bad situation."

ENTRANCE PAPER

ENGLISH COMPREHENSION

- **Read the extract from *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* then answer the following questions on the lined paper you have**
- **Questions 1-10 should be answered as fully as possible in complete sentences.**
- **You have 5 minutes for reading the passage, followed by 35 minutes to answer the questions.**

1. Why does Bruno make an O with his mouth?
2. The new house stands on its own (lines 9-10). Why is this a problem to Bruno?
3. It is obvious that Bruno prefers his house in Berlin. Give 2 reasons why he liked that house?
4. Look at the description of his father's office. (line 16)
 - (a) What does 'Out Of Bounds At All Times And No Exceptions' mean?
 - (b) Why does the writer use capital letters for these words?
5. (a) How many floors does the new house have?
 - (b) How many rooms are there on the ground floor of the new house?
6. Using the lines from 22-36 only, explain what Bruno had liked about walking along the streets in Berlin. Write at least 3 sentences.
7. How many servants does Bruno think there will be in his new house?
8. What do you think 'chalk it up to experience' means (line 59)?
9. Mother replies with another saying. What is it and what does it mean?
10. If you had not been told at the beginning, how would you guess that Bruno is only about 9 years old?

11. Find these words in the passage and for each word or phrase, explain what it means as it is used in the story. You do not need to write in full sentences.

(a) steered clear of (line 9)

(b) desolate (line 10)

(c) nooks and crannies (line 14)

(d) restrictions (line 20)

(e) strolling (line 24)

(f) aromas (line 31)

(g) snapped (line 52)

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Choose one of the following ideas to write about.

- **Spend 5 minutes writing a plan for your work.**
- **Rule off under the plan before you begin your composition.**
- **You will have 30 minutes for your writing**
- **You should have 5 minutes at the end for reading over and checking your work.**

1. Bruno runs away, heading back to Berlin. Write a story about the possible adventures he has on his journey.
2. Write a story involving a house; it might be moving house or visiting a strange or mysterious house...
3. "The Speedy Spaceship!" Write a story with this as your title.