



CAXTON COLLEGE

British Day and Boarding School

Entrance Examination - English Year 10

Reading and Writing – 1 hour

Answer **both** questions

Question 1

Read the following article. Write a summary about the link between physical abilities and learning difficulties and the ways special physical exercises can help children.

You should write about 150 words. You should use your own words as far as possible. You will receive marks for the content of your summary marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Some children have great difficulties in learning to read no matter what their parents and teachers try to do to help them. A team of scientists has been trying to find out why it is so hard for some children to learn to read when others just seem to do it naturally. They have developed a series of physical exercises which they think might help with reading.

Bernard, Hasna and Kamal are doing their physical exercises in the gym at the local primary school for children aged seven to eleven. The exercises all have names – the Lizard, the Octopus, the Commander, the Tortoise and Windmills. The children are very enthusiastic about them and really enjoy doing them, especially the Tortoise. What the children do not know is that the stretches and balancing movements are part of an experiment. Scientists believe that children need to have balance and control over their head movements in order to read properly, and that these physical exercises will eventually help them to do this.

It may sound like a strange idea but scientists agree that exercise is definitely linked to learning. They even think that being able to stand on one leg directly helps reading ability. One scientist has been working on this for over twenty years and she believes that learning difficulties in children begin even before they are born. Some of the problems are concerned with the function of the inner ear and difficulties in hand/eye co-ordination – all things that are crucial for reading to be successful. These difficulties in infancy often continue as the babies develop.

One observation that teachers and scientists have made in school-age children is that if a child holds a pen with the fist instead of fingers, this might show that the child is unable to use his or her muscles properly. This lack of control could cause problems when the child begins to learn to read.

The experiment, which helps children to overcome reading difficulties, goes right back to letting the children move as if they were still babies. They are encouraged to crawl and stretch by doing the physical exercises like the Windmill and Octopus. This gives the children the opportunity to do all the movements again, but in the right way, which helps them to read better. A primary school teacher practised the exercises with her class of eight-year-olds for a full year. It was shown that the children made enormous progress compared to a group of children of the same age in a different school who had not done the exercises.

Teachers and scientists are very excited about the experiment because it means that all children can do exercises whether they have reading difficulties or not. It also means that children as young as five can be given help if they need it so that they don't experience reading failure as they get older. The big advantage of all the exercises is that they are simple and they work.

Question 2

After School Sports Club

Come and join us

Take part in activities you never dreamed of doing...

And it's all FREE

FUN! FUN! FUN!

Write a letter to the students in your school, encouraging them to join the After School Sports Club.

Your letter should be about 250-300 words long.

Don't forget to include:

- **where and when the club will be held**
- **information about the club's activities**
- **why students will enjoy being part of the club**

You will receive up to marks for the content of your letter, and marks for the style and accuracy of your language.