

Dean Close School



Entrance Examination

ENGLISH (IV & Remove)

Time allowed : 1 hour

All answers to be written on lined paper.

IV and Remove Entrance Paper

ENGLISH

Please answer all three questions, each question is worth 12 marks – you should spend no more than 20 minutes on each.

There will be a further 12 marks available for the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Question 1

(This should take you no more than 20 minutes)

'I Love/I Hate'

In a continuous piece of writing describe what you love and what you hate. You may choose completely separate things, or the different aspects of one thing that you love and hate. You are encouraged to be as inventive, or unusual, as your character allows.

Marks will be given for well-crafted sentences and strong use of paragraphs. Marks will be deducted for errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Question 2

(This should take you no more than 20 minutes)

Read the article below and answer the questions which follow.

Jim Corbett is the professional game ranger who has been called in to rid a village of man-eaters – this time tigers. This is an extract from his own account of confronting a man-eater in 1926.

I know of no sound more liable to fret one's nerves than the calling of an unseen tiger at close range. What effect this appalling sound was having on my men I was frightened to think, and if they had gone screaming down the hill I should not have been at all surprised, for even though I had the heel of a good rifle to my shoulder and the stock against my cheek I felt like screaming myself.

But even more frightening than this continuous calling was the fading out of the light. Another few seconds, ten or fifteen at the most, and it would be too dark to see my sights, and we should then be at the mercy of a man-eater, plus a tigress wanting a mate. Something would have to be done, and done in a hurry if we were not to be massacred, and the only thing I could think of was to call.

The tigress was now so close that I could hear the intake of her breath each time before she called, and as she again filled her lungs, I did the same with mine, and we called simultaneously. The effect was startlingly instantaneous. Without a second's hesitation she came tramping with quick steps through the dead leaves, over the low ridge and into the bushes a little to my right front, and just as I was expecting her to walk right on top of me she stopped, and the next moment the full blast of her deep-throated call struck me in the face and would have carried the hat off my head had I been wearing one. A second's pause, then again quick steps; a glimpse of her as she passed between two bushes, and then she stepped right out into the open, and looking into my face, stopped dead.

Using evidence from the passage, but writing in your own words as far as possible, answer the following questions:

2a/ Why is Jim Corbett so frightened?

2b/ What is your impression of the tigress?

Please turn over

Question 3

(This should take no more than 20 minutes)

Read 'The Road Not Taken' and answer the following question:

What message do you think the poet is trying to convey in this poem?

You *must* use quotations to support your ideas.

In your answer you should mention whether you think the poet is positive or negative about his decision. Choose words and phrases which stand out and explain carefully why you think they are effective in getting the poet's message across.

The Road Not Taken

TWO roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveller, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth;	5
Then took the other, as just as fair, And having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear; Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same, And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden black. Oh, I kept the first for another day! Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back.	10
I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged into a wood, and I – I took the one less travelled by, And that has made all the difference.	15
	20

Robert Frost