KING'S COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL

WIMBLEDON

Group C (9+)

SPECIMEN PAPER 2015

English - Reading

25 minutes

Instructions

- Answer ALL the questions
- Match your response to the marks available
- If you get stuck, move on to the next question

Surname: .....

First name: .....

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

'STOP HIM! KILL HIM!'

A lanky scarecrow of a man tore across the frozen ground, jinking this way and that as bullets blasted up snow and ice around him. *Cover ... Get behind hut ... Now where? ... There – snowmobile! ... Unguarded ...* The man flung himself onto the large grey machine, gloved hands fumbling with the ignition.

PTANG! PTANG! Bullets on metal. *Come on ... Start! ... Come ON ... Yes! ...*

The engine roared alive, powering the vehicle forward at breakneck speed. *More men ... blocking way ... raising their guns ... straight through 'em! ...* Scattering the guards, the fugitive forced the machine on at full throttle, long coat flying out behind, battered hat and face muffler covering all but his eyes. Haunted eyes; desperate eyes; searching for a way down to the shore.

Rocks. Have to jump 'em.

He zoomed the snowmobile up a snowdrift, into an arcing leap over the snow-covered rocks. WHAM! The vehicle slammed onto the frozen sea, almost jolting the rider from his seat, and sped onwards.

PTANG! PTANG! ... PFUT! *I'm hit! No – just a bullet grazing hat. Keep swerving. Are they following me? Bound to be. Keep eyes on ice ahead. Starting to snow again. Good – it'll cover tracks.*

The swirling snow closed in, obliterating the horizon ahead and the island behind, enveloping the rider and his vehicle in a white void.

Set course: dead south. Any damage to machine? Seems alright. Fuel? Main tank full. Two spare cans; both look intact. Maybe I have a chance. A slim chance. Damn slim.

Nearly seven hundred miles of rugged, treacherous sea ice lay between him and the northern coast of Russia. *Air temperature: minus 55°C ... Food rations: inadequate.* With the added danger of enemy snowmobiles and enemy planes, death seemed almost certain.

But I have to try ... Have to alert the others ... Tell them Murdo's secret ... If I fail, it's the end of everything ... The end for all humanity...

Questions

1. Find **one** word in the passage that means 'large grey machine' (line 4).

.....

(1 mark)

2. 'Snow and ice' (line 3) indicate the story is set in a cold place. Pick out **two** extra details that reinforce this sense of extreme cold.

.....

(2 marks)

3. What **two** things does the word 'scarecrow' (line 2) tell you about the man?

.....

.....

(2 marks)

4. Pick out two other details that reinforce the impression of 'scarecrow'.

.....

(2 marks)

5. (a) Why are the words 'STOP HIM! KILL HIM!' (line 1) in capital letters?

.....

.....

(1 mark)

(b) Why are some words, like '*Cover... Get behind shed...*' (line 3) in *italics*?

.....

.....

(2 marks)

6. Reread lines 20-24. In your own words explain why the man's survival seems unlikely.

.....

.....

.....

(3 marks)

7. What do you think 'Murdo's secret' (line 25) is? Explain your answer with reference to the passage as a whole.

.....

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.....

.....

(4 marks)

8. Explain the meaning of the following words, **as used in the passage**:

(a) '**lanky** scarecrow of a man' (line 2)

.....

(b) 'the man **flung** himself' (line 4)

.....

(c) '**treacherous** sea' (line 22)

.....

(3 marks)

Total: 20 marks