LeicesterHigh
SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

Specimen Entrance Examination

English Entry to Year 6

Time: 1 hour

There are two sections: Section A Reading Task
Section B Writing Task

Spend 30 minutes on each.
Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Marks will be given for presentation, spelling and punctuation so check your work carefully.

Name:_____ Age: _____

Present School: _____

Mark

/100

Section A: Reading Task

Read the passage carefully then answer the questions fully, in complete sentences, referring to the text whenever possible.

From 'Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH' by Robert C O'Brien

It was growing dusk by the time we reached the market, but through the dusk we could see that there was an unusually large supply of food – a great mound of it – near the centre of the square, away from the roofed-over portion. I suppose that should have served as a warning, but it didn't. I remember Jenner saying, "They must have had a really busy day," and we ran joyfully towards the pile along with several dozen other rats.

Just as we reached the food it happened. All around us suddenly there was shouting. Bright, blinding searchlights flashed on, aimed at us and at the mound of food, so that when we tried to run away from it, we could not see where we were going. Between and behind the lights there were shadows moving swiftly, and as they came towards us I could see that they were men – men in white uniforms carrying nets, round nets with long handles.

"Look out!" cried Jenner. "They're trying to catch us." He darted in one direction, I in another, and I lost sight of him.

We all ran – straight towards the men with the nets. There was no other way to run; they had us encircled. The nets flailed down, scooped, flailed again. I suppose some rats got through, slipping between the men and past the lights. I felt a swish – a net just missed me. I turned and ran back towards the mound, thinking I might hide myself in it. But then came another swish, and that time I felt the enveloping fibres fall over me. They entangled my legs, then my neck. I was lifted from the ground along with three other rats, and the net closed around us.

I was firmly and inextricably caught in the net. When the man who held it saw that he had four rats, he pulled a draw string that closed it up. He put the net down and picked up another, an empty one, leaving us to lie there. I tried gnawing my way out, but the strands were made of some kind of plastic, as hard as wire. The noise and movement began to die down eventually; I heard one man call to another:
"I suppose that's the lot."
"How many did the lab order?" another voice replied.
"Five dozen. How many have we got?"
"About that. Maybe more."
"Let's load the truck."

Once we were all loaded into a large wire cage inside a white truck, the cage was locked, the doors clanged shut, and the lights went out. I heard the truck motor start; a second later the floor lurched beneath me. We were moving. Where were they taking us? For what purpose?

Then, in the dark, I heard a voice beside me.

“Nicodemus?” It was Jenner. You can imagine how glad I was to hear him. But I was sorry, too.
“Jenner. I thought maybe you got away.”
“I was in the last net. I thought I saw you across the floor.”
“Where are we going?”
“I don’t know.”
“What’s a lab?”
“A laboratory.”
“Yes, but what is it?”
“I don’t know. I’ve just heard the word somewhere.”
“Well, I think that’s where we’re going. Whatever it is.”

1. What are the names of the narrator and his friend? 1 mark

2. Using paragraph 1 and 2 to help you, explain how the mound of food was used to trap the rats. 3 marks

3. Choose two very lively verbs from paragraph 4 which are used to describe the movements of the nets and copy them out. 2 marks

4. Use your own words to explain why the rat could not gnaw his way out of the net. (paragraph 5) 2 marks

5. What is the effect of having three short sentences at the end of paragraph 6?
2 marks

6. The following words are underlined in the passage. Suggest another word or phrase to explain the meaning of each one, as it is used in the passage.
5 marks

swiftly: _____

darted: _____

inextricably: _____

lurched: _____

laboratory: _____

7. Why was the narrator both glad and sorry to hear his friend's voice in the truck? (paragraph 7) 4 marks

8. The main characters in this story are rats. What do you find surprising or interesting about them?
Think about how they react, how they communicate and our feelings about them in this extract. Use your own words but also refer to evidence in the passage to support what you say. 6 marks

Total = 25 marks

Section B: Writing Task

The Visitor.

Write a story which this title suggests to you.

25 marks