SOLIHULL JUNIOR SCHOOL

10+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

SAMPLE PAPER 1

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SAMPLE PAPER

Time: 1 hour There are **TWO** sections. **Section A** and **Section B**.

SECTION A (20 Marks)

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions as fully as you can (in sentences where necessary).

The Valley Of Secrets by Charmian Hussey

Stephen stood and stared in amazement. He certainly hadn't expected such grandeur. The tall, heavy, iron gates rose up high in front of him – a seemingly impassable barrier.

"You mark my words, the gates'll be locked," the stationmaster's voice came back to him. He could see in his mind the pursed up lips, the thrust out chin and gloating face. So, now, whatever should he do?

Perhaps he could climb over the gates. He knew he would never manage it, not with a heavy pack on his back; he wasn't going to leave that behind. Perhaps, if he followed the wall along, he could find a place to climb over.

Stephen stood in the middle of the road, feeling very lost and tired. It was almost dark now under the trees. He looked around him nervously. Everything seemed so strangely still. There was something watchful about the place. Something waiting for him to act.

He moved quietly towards the gates, and peered cautiously through the bars. It was not an encouraging sight. Dark, brooding masses of rhododendron seemed to be blocking the driveway, just a little way ahead. Even if he managed to get into the place, he didn't like the idea of having to push his way through those.

Just above the height of Stephen's waist, where the gates came together in the middle, there was a large lock. He could see the big keyhole clearly. He could see the large, rusty handles.

Almost in desperation, he grasped the large handles, pressing down and giving them a hard push. To Stephen's surprise, the lock clicked. One gate began to move. It swung slowly open in front of him, moaning and creaking noisily in the still, evening air.

"O dear! What a fool I am, "he said out loud, stepping slowly forward.

Just inside the gate, he stopped short. He stood stock-still, his face tense, looking around him and listening carefully. When he had decided that it all seemed quiet and harmless enough, he turned to close the gate behind him. The gate was heavy and difficult to close; only after pushing a shoving did it click reluctantly back into place, in line with the other gate.

Just as he was turning to set off, a very weird noise rang out; a plaintive, somewhat musical call, echoing through the darkening tree-tops high above his head.

"Whoomp! Whoomp! Whoomp!"

Stephen froze.

"What on earth was that?" he exclaimed. "Surely it couldn't be an owl?"

The call had a strange, unearthly quality. He couldn't imagine what it could be. He was just beginning to relax, when suddenly from far ahead of him, came a distant, answering call.

"Womp! Womp! Womp!" The call was lower this time, but still with a strangely musical tone.

Stephen stood quite still by the gate, his eyes staring wide in alarm. But although he stood there for some time, the strange call was not repeated. At last, with an enormous sigh, he started to gather himself together. Wiping the sweat from his upper lip, and pushing the hair back from his face, he set off uncertainly, glancing around him as he went, peering up anxiously into the trees.

Answer each question in full sentences. Look carefully at how many marks will be given for each answer. Use the story to help you.

1. What were the gates like when Stephen first saw them? (1 mark)

_____

2. Why did Stephen think the gates were locked at first? (1 mark)

_____

3. Why couldn't Stephen climb over the gates? (2 marks)

_____

_____

4. What made Stephen feel nervous as he stood by the gates wondering what to do next? (2 marks)

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Stephen eventually grabbed the large rusty handles? (2 marks)

_____

_____

6. Why did Stephen wait for a little while before closing the gates behind him? (2 marks)

_____

_____

7. What do you think was making the strange calling sound? Explain the reasons for your answer. (3 marks)

_____

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_____

8. How do you know from the passage that Stephen was frightened by the strange calls? (2 marks)

_____

_____

9. Why do you think Stephen gave '*an enormous sigh*' before he carried on walking along the path inside the gates? (2 marks)

_____

_____

10. Why do you think Stephen is so desperate to get through the gates and to carry on walking up the path? Explain your answer in detail, giving reasons for your ideas and answers. (3 marks)

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SECTION B (30 Marks)

STORY

You have been asked to continue Stephen's adventure and to write the next chapter of this story.

Remember to think about:

- Where Stephen is going and why he is keen to find this place
- What the place looks like – can you describe it in your writing?
- The adventures that might happen to Stephen on his journey
- What happens when he arrives there
- How the chapter of your story ends

You should try to write at least one side of A4.