Trinity School Croydon

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

10+

SYLLABUS and SAMPLE QUESTIONS

ENGLISH

(for candidates over 10 and under 11 on 1st September of the year of entry)

The assessment in English at 10+ takes the form of one 1-hour examination paper.
The purpose of the paper is to assess candidates' ability to understand the written word and to express their ideas effectively in writing.

Part 1 – Reading (30 minutes)
The test will take the form of a passage, usually of prose, with a series of questions, which have to be answered. The questions are designed to assess candidates' ability to respond to the passage with understanding, to draw simple inferences, to express views fluently and accurately and to refer to relevant words or episodes to support opinions. There will be no questions on "formal grammar".

Part 2 – Writing (30 minutes)
Two or three titles, usually related to the reading passage, are normally set, and candidates write on one of them. Topics set may invite personal, imaginative, narrative or discursive written responses. Candidates will be assessed on their ability to communicate meaning, using a wide-ranging vocabulary and an effective style, organising and structuring sentences grammatically and the whole text coherently.

In the paper candidates will be expected to punctuate and spell accurately and to present work neatly and legibly.

Part 1 - Reading (You should spend **30 minutes** on this section.)

Read the passage below carefully and answer ALL the questions which follow **fully**, **in sentences**, and as far as possible **in your own words**. Good presentation, writing and spelling are important.

A Little Experiment!

BOOM! WHIIIZZ! KER-BOOOM!

The whole house shook and the windows rattled violently. Gadgetman was at it again! Beans was still for only a moment. She ran out of the bathroom and dashed downstairs, her toothbrush in her hand.

"Dad! Dad, what's going on?" Beans yelled.

A high-pitched whistle shrieked through the house again. Beans ran into the kitchen.

BOOOOM! WHIIIZZ!

"Eeek!" Beans threw herself down on to the kitchen floor.

Only just in time, too! A small red-and-yellow doobry-whatsit whizzed through the open kitchen window and shot over her head, before veering left to crash into a box of cornflakes.

BOOOOOOM!

Beans shook her head as she got to her feet. Dad could blow up his workroom if he wanted to - and he often did! - but did he have to blow up the kitchen as well? Dad's workroom was at the bottom of the garden, but there were times when the bottom of the garden wasn't far enough away. Beans didn't mind her dad being an inventor - much! - but did he have to make so much noise about it?

"Beans, are you OK?" Beans's dad called through the kitchen window.

"Yes, Dad." Beans frowned. "What on earth are you doing? You didn't tell me your animal crunchies were meant to explode like that!"

"They're not! I got the propellent mixture wrong. I'd better stop the rest of them from blowing up as well! Bye!" Beans's dad started across the garden.

Beans went out into the hall. Another explosion sounded behind her. She raised her eyes heavenwards, then walked faster.

I don't have time for all this. I have to get ready for school, Beans thought firmly.

She started up the stairs, vigorously brushing her teeth, when the doorbell rang. With a sigh, she turned to open the door. She'd never get to school at this rate!

It was her two best friends, Louisa and Ann. They always walked to school together. Beans grinned, the toothpaste frothy and bubbling in her mouth.

"Arrgh! Mad girl! Mad girl! Call the RSPCA!" Ann took a hasty step backwards.

Beans laughed, before choking on her toothpaste.

"Ugh! Beans, do you have to?" Louisa wrinkled up her nose. "That is so gross!"

WHIZZZZ!

They all jumped.

"What on earth was that?" Ann asked, her green eyes round like saucers. "Your dad?"

Beans nodded. Who else would be making that kind of racket at eight-fifteen in the morning? Mr McKee, their neighbour, would be knocking on the front door for sure with all that din.

"It sounds like he's trying to give everyone in the street a heart attack." Louisa frowned.

Beans shrugged, then pointed to her mouth and darted up the stairs. Toothpaste rinsed out, she ran back downstairs to the hall to join her friends. Dad was there ahead of her. His hair was sticking up in tufts all over his head, his glasses were practically off his nose, and the right-hand arm of his glasses was sticking in his ear rather than resting on top of it. He was wearing a blue T-shirt and the shorts Beans had bought him for Christmas - the ones with Bugs Bunny playing tennis all over them. And he only had one slipper on.

"Is everyone sure they're all right?" Beans's dad asked anxiously.

Louisa nodded. Ann bit her bottom lip and lowered her eyes, trying her best not to laugh. Beans couldn't blame her! Why did Dad have to be *so* embarrassing!

"I was doing a little experiment and it ... er ... went ever so slightly wrong," he said.

"As always!" Beans muttered.

"Pardon, dear?"

"Nothing, Dad," said Beans, hastily. "Rats! I've forgotten my jacket. I'll be right back." And she ran upstairs to her room.

Now answer the following questions

Write in sentences and as far as possible in your own words

1. At what time of day were the events described taking place? How can you tell? (2)

2. Who was 'Gadgetman' and why had he been given this nickname? (2)

3. Why was it remarkable that Beans should be in danger when she was in the kitchen? (2)

4. Using facts from the whole story explain how we can tell that 'Gadgetman' had done this kind of thing before. Quote some phrases from the story which suggest this. (4)

5. Why did Beans sigh when the doorbell sounded? (2)

6. Why did Ann shout "Arrgh ... RSPCA!"? (line 30) (2)

7. How did Beans expect her neighbour to react to the experiments? (1)

8. Explain fully and in your own words why Ann found it hard not to laugh. (line 47) (4)

9. What were Beans's feelings about her father and his behaviour at different moments during the story? (You should discuss at least 3 different incidents). (6)

25 marks

Part 2 - Writing (You should spend **30 minutes** on this section.)

Either

1. Write about a time when you or a member of your family were involved in a dangerous activity or occurrence.

Or

2. Write a story which focuses on one incident when the main character was embarrassed in front of his/her friends by another member of the family.

25 marks