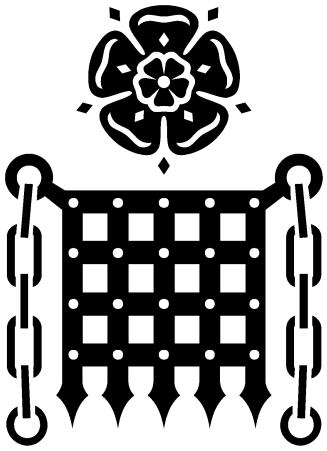
EMANUEL SCHOOL



10+ English Entrance Examination

January 2010

1 hour

Name: _____

Primary School: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the passage in Section A and answer **all** the questions as fully as possible.
- Then choose **one** of the writing tasks in Section B.
- You are told the number of marks available for each question.
- Check through your work carefully at the end of the exam.

Section A : Comprehension

Spend up to 30 minutes on this.

Read the following passage carefully.

In this extract Gerald Durrell describes watching scorpions when he was a boy living on the Greek island of Corfu. Scorpions are common in Mediterranean countries, but their sting can be fatal, and parents would usually not let children go near these dangerous creatures.

You hardly ever saw one unless you looked for it, and yet there must have been several hundred living in the cracks of the wall. Slide a knife-blade carefully under a piece of loose plaster and lever it gently away from the brick, and there, crouching beneath it, would be a little black scorpion, an inch long, looking as though he were made out of polished chocolate. They were weird-looking things, with their flattened oval bodies, their neat crooked legs, the enormous crab-like claws, bulbous and neatly jointed as armour, and the tail like a string of brown beads ending in a sting like a rose-thorn. The scorpion would lie there quite quietly as you examined him, only raising his tail in an almost apologetic gesture of warning if you breathed too hard on him. If you kept him in the sun too long he would simply turn his back on you and walk away, and then slide slowly but firmly under another section of plaster.

I grew very fond of these scorpions. I found them to be pleasant, unassuming creatures with, on the whole, the most charming habits. Providing you did nothing silly or clumsy (like putting your hand on one) the scorpions treated you with respect, their one desire being to get away and hide as quickly as possible.

They must have found me rather a **trial**, for I was always ripping sections of the plaster away so that I could watch them, or capturing them and making them walk about in jam-jars so that I could see the way their feet moved. By means of my sudden and unexpected **assaults** on the wall I discovered quite a bit about the scorpions. I found that they would eat bluebottles (though how they caught them was a mystery I never solved), grasshoppers, moths, and lacewing-flies. Several times I found them eating each other, a habit I found most distressing in a creature otherwise so impeccable.

QUESTIONS

1. In the chart below list **3 parts of the scorpion's body** which are compared to something (by using a simile) **in the first paragraph**, and **the three things they are compared to**.

a part of the scorpion's body	**what it is compared to**
1.	
2.	
3.	

(3 marks)

2. Choose a word or phrase from the **first paragraph**, which suggests that Gerald likes the scorpions, write it below, and explain why you have chosen it.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

3. **From the first paragraph,** explain **in full sentences, in your own words,**

a) two things that Gerald sometimes did to the scorpions that they did not like, and

b) the **two different ways** that they showed this.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(4 marks)

4. Explain the meaning of the following two words, as they are used in the passage. (They are in **bold** in the passage.)

a) **trial**

_____

_____

b) **assaults**

_____

_____

(2 marks)

5. Gerald Durrell often writes about animals as if they have human thoughts and feelings. Find **two examples** of this in the passage.

a) Write them below,

b) Explain in what way they make the scorpions seem like humans, not animals.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(4 marks)

6. From what you have read in this passage, what impressions do you form of Gerald's character? Give examples from the text to support the points that you make.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(4 marks)

7. What was the only thing about the scorpions that Gerald did not like? (Answer in a proper sentence, in your own words.)

_____

_____

(1 mark)

8. Write out the following extract with the correct punctuation and spelling:

one day I found a fat female scorpion carrying her babys. I thought I wood keep them as pets, so I decided two smuggle her in a box too my bedroom. I didnt wan't anyone to no what I was doing, so I crept upstairs with the box when my family were all having there lunch

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(5 marks)

TOTAL = 25 MARKS

Section B: CREATIVE WRITING

SPEND AT LEAST 30 MINUTES ON THIS

Choose ONE of the following to write about. Pay close attention to your spelling, punctuation and grammar. Use the lines printed on the exam paper for your writing.

EITHER

1) 'An interesting animal'

Write an account of an occasion, real or fictional, when you closely observed an animal. This could be a pet, an animal in the zoo, or in the wild. Make the focus of your story the animal itself, taking care to describe it in detail.

OR

2) 'The hole in the wall'

Use this as your title for an interesting story. Make sure that your story is carefully structured, and includes descriptions that will make it possible for the reader to imagine what you describe.

TOTAL = 25 MARKS

☐ **←Please put the number for the story you've chosen to do here.**

End of the exam - well done!