ALDENHAM SCHOOL

11 + Entrance Paper

SAMPLE PAPER

ENGLISH

Length of examination – One hour

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

This examination consists of two parts:

Answer **all** questions in Section A. When you have finished Section A. continue immediately to Section B

Answer **one** question in Section B

We suggest you spend 30 minutes on each section

Remember to write your full name on each piece of paper you use.

Check your work carefully for correct spelling and punctuation

ENGLISH COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage taken from American author, F Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby and then answer the questions in Section A. Then move on to Section B.

Questions 1 to 4 should be answered in full sentences. Try to include as many details as you can.

There was music from Jay Gatsby's house through the summer nights. In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars. At high tide in the afternoon I watched his guests diving from the tower of his raft, or taking the sun on the hot sand of his beach while his two motor-boats slit the waters of the Sound, drawing aquaplanes over cataracts of foam. On week-ends his Rolls-Royce became an omnibus, bearing parties to and from the city between nine in the morning and long past midnight, while his station wagon scampered like a brisk yellow bug to meet all trains. And on Mondays eight servants, including an extra gardener, toiled all day with mops and scrubbing-brushes and hammers and garden-shears, repairing the ravages of the night before.

Every Friday five crates of oranges and lemons arrived from a fruiterer in New York — every Monday these same oranges and lemons left his back door in a pyramid of pulpless halves. There was a machine in the kitchen which could extract the juice of two hundred oranges in half an hour if a little button was pressed two hundred times by a butler's thumb.

At least once a fortnight a corps of caterers came down with several hundred feet of canvas and enough colored lights to make a Christmas tree of Gatsby's enormous garden. On buffet tables, garnished with glistening hors-d'oeuvre, spiced baked hams crowded against salads of harlequin designs and pastry pigs and turkeys bewitched to a dark gold. In the main hall a bar with a real brass rail was set up, and stocked with gins and liquors and with cordials so long forgotten that most of his female guests were too young to know one from another.

By seven o'clock the orchestra has arrived, no thin five-piece affair, but a whole pitful of oboes and trombones and saxophones and viols and cornets and piccolos, and low and high drums. The last swimmers have come in from the beach now and are dressing up-stairs; the cars from New York are parked five deep in the drive, and already the halls and salons and verandas are gaudy with primary colors, and hair shorn in strange new ways, and shawls beyond the dreams of Castile. The bar is in full swing, and floating rounds of cocktails permeate the garden outside, until the air is alive with chatter and laughter, and casual chatter and introductions forgotten on the spot, and enthusiastic meetings between women who never knew each other's names.

The party has begun.

I believe that on the first night I went to Gatsby's house I was one of the few guests who had actually been invited. People were not invited — they went there. They got into automobiles which bore them out to Long Island, and somehow they ended up at Gatsby's

door. Once there they were introduced by somebody who knew Gatsby, and after that they conducted themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with amusement parks. Sometimes they came and went without having met Gatsby at all, came for the party with a simplicity of heart that was its own ticket of admission.

I had been actually invited. A chauffeur in a uniform of robin's-egg blue crossed my lawn early that Saturday morning with a surprisingly formal note from his employer: the honor would be entirely Gatsby's, it said, if I would attend his "little party" that night. He had seen me several times, and had intended to call on me long before, but a peculiar combination of circumstances had prevented it — signed Jay Gatsby, in a majestic hand.

Section A *Spend 30 minutes on this section*

Comprehension Questions.

1) In the first two paragraphs what tells the reader that this is a lavish and expensive party? Remember to refer to both paragraphs to provide support for your answer.

   (6 marks)

2) Explain how each of the following quotations add to the extravagant nature of the party

- *'On buffet tables, garnished with glistening hors-d'oeuvre, spiced baked hams crowded against salads of harlequin designs and pastry pigs and turkeys bewitched to a dark gold.'*
- *The bar is in full swing, and floating rounds of cocktails permeate the garden outside, until the air is alive with chatter and laughter,*

   (4 marks)

3) What impression is given of Gatsby in this passage? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

   (6 marks)

4) Using your own words, write one paragraph in which you describe what it would be like to be a guest at one of these parties.

   (4 marks)

Section B ***Spend 30 minutes on this section***

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Choose one of the following ideas to write about.

Spend 5 minutes writing a plan for your work.

Underline after the plan before you begin your composition.

Check that you have:

- Punctuated correctly
- Used different and interesting verbs, adverbs and adjectives
- Included a variety of sentence structures
- Varied the length of your sentences
- Organised your writing into paragraphs
- Checked spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Used descriptive techniques such as similes and metaphors

Either

1) Write a descriptive piece entitled 'The magnificent party' **(20 marks)**

Or

2) Write a story which starts with the opening line 'I'd never had a weekend like it!' **(20 marks)**