Colfe's 11+ Entrance Exam

English – sample paper

Section A – Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation		
Multiple choice (Each question is worth 1 mark – 8 marks)		**/8**
Grammar exercises (12 marks)		**/12**
Section B – Comprehension and Analysis		
Multiple choice (Each question is worth 2 marks – 20 marks.)		**/20**
Short answer questions (30 marks in total)	**Question 1:**	**/5**
	Question 2:	**/6**
	Question 3:	**/6**
	Question 4:	**/3**
	Question 5:	**/4**
	Question 5:	**/6**
Sections A + B Subtotal		**/70**
Section C - Creative writing		**/30**
TOTAL		

Colfe's School
11+ Entrance Exam

The examination lasts 90 minutes. You should divide your time as follows:
Spend 15 minutes on Section A.
Spend 45 minutes on Section B.
Spend 30 minutes on Section C.

Section A: Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation (20 marks)

Multiple Choice - Circle the correct answer. (1 mark each – 8 marks in total)

1. Which **punctuation mark** should go at the end of this sentence?

The bear is attacking - help

a) Question mark
b) Exclamation mark
c) Colon
d) Semi-colon

2. Which sentence below should have a **colon** in it?

a) Pollution now affects every aspect of our lives food, water, air, even our moments of quiet.
b) The girls' bicycles were all crammed into the shelter.
c) Andrea spent all of last week going to the sales but nothing she tried on suited her.
d) Mr James, an American friend, drove the wrong way around a roundabout.

3. Look carefully at the sentences below and circle the one in which you think the **direct speech** has been punctuated **incorrectly**.

a) "Jason has joined our class. I hope you will all make him feel welcome," said the teacher.
b) Sarah asked, "Are you going to the party?"
c) "Nope" his friend answered "you're going to be the rear end of the pantomime donkey."
d) "Don't shout at me!"

4. Only one of these sentences has all of its **apostrophes** in the right place. Which is it?

a) There's no way that its going to be a nice day; the sun's rays have been obscured by clouds since I got up.

b) The sheeps' wool was soft and fluffy, perfect for making sweaters'.

c) The dogs' kennels need to be cleaned out. If they are left as they are, the dogs will become ill.

d) Its wheel fell off and rolled over the boys' foot.

5. Read the following sentence. Which **punctuation mark** should go between the words *today* and *the*? The exact place has been underlined for you.

Max was late for school again today _ the bus was full by the time it got to his stop.

a) Bracket

b) Semi-colon

c) Apostrophe

d) Comma

6. Read the following sentence and identify the **main clause**.

Walking to school wrapped in her warmest scarf, Rita was in a good mood because today was her birthday.

a) Walking to school

b) wrapped in her warmest scarf

c) Rita was in a good mood

d) because today was her birthday

7. Read the following sentence. Identify the **part of the sentence** that is underlined.

Beneath the bright blue sky, the flowers, which were yellow, swayed slightly <u>as the warm breeze blew gently over them</u>.

a) main clause

b) subordinate clause

c) adverbial phrase

d) embedded clause

8. Read the following sentence. What **tense** is it in and which **type of word** tells you this?

Bees like to make honey by gathering pollen.

a) past – verbs
b) past – adverbs
c) present – nouns
d) present – verbs
e) future – adverbs
f) future – nouns

Grammar Exercises – Write your answer in the lines provided. (12 marks in total)

1. Change the verb tense in the sentence below to the past tense. (1 mark)

When she wakes up, the teacher drinks her coffee in the morning.

_____

_____

2. **Underline** the nouns (but NOT pronouns) and **circle** the adjectives. (2 marks)

Time turned against the worried man. The busy stock market closed for the day and Charles could not recover the lost money.

3. Insert the appropriate homophone from the list, using a word from each pair only once. (3 marks)

whose/who's	whether / weather	two / to / too
effect / affect	there / their / they're	which / witch

Anna, _____ desk space was very small, asked her junior colleague _____ he would put _____ office printer on his side of the desk. When he took _____ long about it, she took matters into her own hands and shifted it herself. The _____ was a distinct chill in the department in _____ they both worked.

4. Change each pair of simple sentences into a single complex sentence (**with at least one subordinate clause**). You may change the order of the sentences.

a) The child was walking down the street. She was eating an ice cream. (2 marks)

_____

_____

_____

b) The birds flew away. The dog barked loudly. (2 marks)

_____

_____

_____

c) The final bell of the day rang. The children cheered. (2 marks)

_____

_____

_____

Section B: Reading Passage and Questions

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Words in bold are defined at the end of the passage.

Below is a passage about a schoolboy, Clement Lawrence, who has been humiliated in assembly because he has failed to bring in twenty pounds to put towards a retiring teacher's leaving fund. The headmaster has threatened him with multiple detentions if he does not bring in the money the next day. The passage starts when he has returned home after school, and is about to ask his parents for the money so that he does not get in any more trouble…

It was dusk and the Lawrences were eating their one substantial meal of the day.

No one could think, looking at their home, that twenty pound notes, or even five pound notes, were to be had there for the asking.

The house was a poor, wretched **coop** of a room, through the black, water-stained tiles of which you could count a dozen blue glimpses of encroaching sky. The nosy clouds peered in and the Lawrences' poverty meant that they could not afford to stop their gaze. The walls of the shack were papered with old newspapers and magazines, discoloured with age and stained and spotted from roof to floor, torn in many places, to reveal the rotting, worm-eaten boards beneath. Beetles scurried in the crumbling wood. Damp lent the miserable dwelling an earthy smell like mouldering autumn leaves. The small room was divided by a threadbare cotton screen depicting seagulls soaring up from a sea of wave-splashed blue. In the midst of this drab poverty the free, soaring seagulls, and the energetic waves were an unkind comment. One cracked table leg was propped up by a broken-spined book.

The Lawrences were a family of four: Dave and his wife Maud, Clement and his older sister Evelina.

Clement sat on the sanded floor of the poor room, his plate of rice between his legs (the tottering table was kept for pots, pans and other utensils). Evelina lolled over the one battered sofa, picking with teenage discontent at the coarse fare. Horsehair stuffing from burst corners of the sofa floated in the air and settled in the food. Dave Lawrence, a grizzled, gangling labourer, held his plate in his left hand, while with his right he filled his gaping mouth. At the propped-open window of the room sat Mrs Lawrence, a long thread of a woman whose bones poverty, like a hawk, had picked clean. Her plate was resting on her lap, and she scraped and pecked and foraged for food like a scratching hen, while her free hand snapped out to crush any beetles that dared to come too close to her meagre grains of rice.

When Clement had finished, he took up his empty plate and, getting to his feet, went and stowed it away in the dark box of a kitchen. Returning, he slumped down beside his mother's chair and rested his head against her tiny teensy twig of a thigh.

After a time he said: 'Ma, could I have the twenty pounds I've been asking for? The money for Mr Meggarty who's retiring?'

'Hmm? What twenty pounds, boy? Why in the name of the Lord must poor, starving people find twenty pound notes for Jim Meggarty who's got his belly sitting so pretty with fat?' shot back Mrs Lawrence.

'I've told you and told you, ma. He's leaving his job at my school and all of us kids have got to take in twenty pounds to give towards a fund for him,' explained Clement patiently to his mother. He had been telling her for a month. Every day now, he seemed to be doing an impression of a parrot.

'Hmm. Twenty pounds is a lot of money for poor folks like us. Hmm. You'd better go ask your father. See what he says.'

Clement got to his feet reluctantly and moved slowly - as slowly as a cat among cacti – over to where his father was sitting, for he knew from experience that, in parting with money, his father was a far harder nut to crack than his mother.

Dave Lawrence extended an empty plate to his son. Clement took the plate to the kitchen. Then he turned once more to tackle his father.

'Can I have twenty pound, Papa?' he shouted in his father's ear, for the man was almost stone deaf.

'Eh-eh! What's that about a newspaper round, Clement?'

This time Clement put his mouth completely into his father's ear and shouted until his face turned beetroot with the effort.

'Don't shout at me,' was all Clement got for his pains. 'Don't you deafen me. What's that the young varmint says, Maud?'

Mrs Lawrence came over and got him to understand after two or three attempts.

'Twenty pounds, Maudie,' he cackled, 'Twenty pounds! Did you ever hear the like, Maud? Did you ever? I'll bet you never did. Twenty pounds! The lad wants money that I have got to sweat blood for, just to give to that old Meggarty who's got his bread so well buttered upon both sides, not to mention the middle. Twenty pounds! Ha ha!... oh Maudie…' And he broke down once more in helpless laughter. Clement saw that he would not get a penny from his father. He went out and sat under the cherry tree that grew before the door, resting his back against the trunk.

Evelina came out when the dusk was thick as cobwebs and sat beside him. There was a close bond of understanding and companionship between these two. Clement leaned against her so that he could feel the cheering warmth of her arms. Biting his nails, he told her of his morning's shame in assembly – told her how the headmaster of his school had threatened him, and half a dozen other boys, with endless detentions if they did not bring in their twenty pounds each to pay towards Mr Meggarty's retirement fund...

coop - a cage or pen in which chickens are kept (small space)

Section B: Comprehension and Analysis (50 marks)

Multiple Choice - **Circle the correct answer.** (2 marks each – 20 marks in total)

1. Look at line 1. Does the family have one substantial meal because

a) they have a lot of food to eat?

b) they are in a rush to make some money?

c) the father is grumpy and wants his food straight away?

d) they are poor and do not have enough money for another large meal?

2. In lines 5-6, the writer describes how 'The nosy clouds peered in….' What technique is being used here?

a) alliteration

b) bad weather

c) personification

d) rudeness

3. Look at line 11. What does 'threadbare' mean?

a) to do with animals

b) thin and tattered with age

c) like knitting

d) a screen

4. In line 29, the writer describes a 'tiny teensy twig of a thigh'. What technique is being used here?

a) five words in a row

b) alliteration

c) onomatopoeia

d) an acronym

5. In line 38, Clement feels that he has been 'doing an impression of a parrot'. What does this suggest?

a) He is brightly coloured.

b) He has asked about the money many times.

c) He wishes he could fly.

d) He wants to make his mother laugh.

6. Which of the following best describes the father's attitude towards giving Clement twenty pounds:

a) He thinks that it is a hilarious proposition and refuses to do it.

b) He does not think that it is at all funny and asks his wife whether they should do it.

c) He thinks that it is very funny but is not keen to pay for more butter for Mr Meggarty.

d) He gets angry about the twenty pounds and sends Clement to sit outside their home.

7. In line 50, Clement's face 'turned beetroot' with the effort of shouting at his father. What technique is being used here?

a) A metaphor

b) Colourful assonance

c) A vegetable

d) A simile

8. Look at line 52. What does 'varmint' mean?

a) a young person

b) a member of a family

c) anyone who is after money

d) a troublesome person

9. Look at Clement's father's speech in lines 54-58. Which techniques are used to convey his amusement and anger?

a) repetition and rhetorical questions
b) repetition and exaggeration (hyperbole)
c) alliteration and exaggeration (hyperbole)
d) repetition, rhetorical questions and exaggeration (hyperbole)

10. Who shows the most compassion for Clement?

a) Evelina
b) Maud
c) Dave
d) Mr Meggarty

Short Answer Questions- Answer in sentences on the lines. (30 marks in total)

1. What evidence is there in this passage that the Lawrences are poor? Make 5 separate points, **using your own words**. (5 marks)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Find two examples of animal imagery (similes or metaphors). What do the quotations suggest? Explain their effect.

Example: 'The house was a poor, wretched **coop of a room**.'

Effect: This compares the house to a chicken coop, which suggests that it is small and cramped. The idea is that there is a lack of comfort, space and reinforces that the family are poor. (The comparison of people to animals is often negative, suggesting that they have a low quality of life.)

a) Example:_____(1 mark)

Effect:_____

_____

_____

_____(2 marks)

b) Example:_____(1 mark)

Effect:_____

_____

_____

_____(2 marks)

3. Find two descriptions of Mr Meggarty. What is suggested about him and how is it effective in describing the type of person he is?

a) Example:_____(1 mark)

Effect:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____(2 marks)

b) Example:_____(1 mark)

Effect:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____(2 marks)

4. Dave Lawrence (Clement's father) laughs quite a lot in the passage. Explain why he laughs. To help you answer this, comment on what you think are the reasons behind his laughter. **Use your own words**.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____(3 marks)

5. How does Clement feel about each of his parents? Support your ideas using a quotation as evidence.

Mother:_____

_____(1 mark)

Evidence:_____

_____(1 mark)

Father:_____

_____(1 mark)

Evidence:_____

_____(1 mark)

6. Do you think it's fair that Clement has to take in money for Mr Meggarty? Explain your opinion in your own words and use quotations from the passage as evidence.

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_____ (6 marks)

Section C: Creative Writing (30 marks)

This section is testing your writing skills. **Answer on the lined paper.**

Continue the story from the point at which Clement and Evelina are talking to one another outside their home. They obviously cannot get the money from their parents, so how do they try to raise twenty pounds? They have only until the next morning's school day starts. Will they be successful in their efforts to acquire the money? Will they get exactly twenty pounds? Less? More? No money at all? You choose. **Make sure you include description in your story.**

Marks will be awarded for:

- DEVELOPING THE STORY
- ORIGINAL IDEAS
- VIVID DESCRIPTION
- VOCABULARY
- SENTENCE VARIETY
- ACCURACY (SPELLING, PUNCTUATION, GRAMMAR, PARAGRAPHING)