ELTHAM COLLEGE

11+ Entrance Examination

English

Name: …….

Time: 45 Minutes

Instructions:

- The marks available for individual questions should guide the length and detail of your answers.
- You should spend about 15 minutes on each section.
- The accuracy of your spelling/punctuation/grammar will be assessed in Section C.

Section A:	Understanding	10 marks
Section B:	Comment and Analysis	10 marks
Section C:	Expressive Writing	30 marks

Read the passage carefully, then answer all the questions in Sections A, B and C.

We were on the swings that afternoon, Gip Sanchez and me.

There was nothing particularly unusual about that. Gip was my best friend. On the way back from school, we would often go to the park and chat about things. Only, on this occasion, we did something different.

We talked about my family. Now and then an adult would walk by, glancing at us as if to say we were too old to be in this part of the playground, that we must be up to something.

That's the way it is when Gip's around. He gets glances. Before he says a word, there's a sense of anger about him, with his long, shaggy hair, his dodgy skin, his dark eyes, his odd way of walking.

Life has never been kind to Gip. He was born with one leg shorter than the other. Before he was a year old, his dad left home. The way he tells it, his mum is more interested in God, alcohol and herself (not necessarily in that order) than in her only son. He gets beatings in the playground – like other people get school dinners.

There's something about Gip, a sort of pleasure in his own weirdness that seems to annoy people within seconds of meeting him. It's not just that he shuffles about like a creature from another world but that he goes out of his way not to fit in. He actually likes to look disgusting. When some of the older kids at the school took to calling him 'Gimpy' because he limps, and then 'Gyppo' because there is something of the wild gypsy to him, he took the name 'Gip' as if it were a special prize that had been awarded to him.

Which made them even more annoyed.

Which made Gip even more determined to be Gip.

In the end, people at school have learnt to treat him with a sort of edgy respect. In spite of everything life has thrown at him, Gip's a winner. He knew about computers before anyone else. He was the first in school to have a mobile phone. Sometimes, when he talks about things, he seems like ten years older than he is – in experience, in life.

No one quite understands why we are friends – Gip Sanchez, the well-known geek and neighbourhood oddball, and Thomas Wisdom, a bright, normal kid from a bright normal family. My parents, so easy about everything else, are not easy about this. Ever since they met Gip at a parents' evening, they wince when I mention his name.

Maybe that was why I liked him, why our friendship was so strong – it owed nothing to anyone but ourselves.

Maybe it was why, that fateful afternoon in the park, I talked to him about my family.

From *The Angel Factory* (2002) – Terence Blacker

Section A: Understanding

10 marks

1. What were the two names Gip was given at school? *(2 marks)*

   _____

2. What is the narrator's name? *(2 marks)*

   _____

3. Where are Gip and the narrator when they have their conversation?
   (3 marks)

   _____

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4. In your own words, summarise the things that show Gip to have been unlucky in life.
   (3 marks)

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Section B: Comment and Analysis

10 marks

1. Why does Gip 'get glances'? (2 marks)

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2. Using a short quotation, show how Gip is **now** treated at school. (2 marks)

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3. Pick out *three* sentences or phrases which make us feel that this is something very significant about the incident the writer is introducing here. Give reasons for your choices. (6 marks)

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Section C: Expressive Writing

30 marks

Please note the instructions

- ***Make your writing as descriptive and vivid as possible***
- ***You should NOT write a story***
- ***Description is far more important than narrative***
- ***You should aim to write approximately 1 to 1½ sides***
- ***Plan your writing before you start: the plan will NOT be marked***
- ***The accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will form part of the assessment in this section.***

Describe in detail a strange, unsuitable, or dangerous friend. Try to show the reader as clearly as possible the things which make this person/animal/thing unusual, and also why he or she or it is likeable.

You may use a real experience, your imagination, or a mixture of both.