| For markers only: | |
|---|---|
| Section A: | /25 |
| Section B: | /25 |
| Total: | /50 |

# Emanuel School

## 11+ English Entrance Examination

## 1 hour

**Name:**_____

**School:**_____

**Do you speak any languages at home other than English? If so, please write the name of the language here:**

_____

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Read the passage in Section A and try to answer **all** the questions in **full sentences**.
- Spend 30 minutes on this section.
- Then spend 30 minutes on Section B (composition).
- 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 section.*

**Read the extract carefully and then answer the questions that follow.**

*In this extract from Gerald Durrell's book 'The Overloaded Ark', the nature lover describes his experience of hunting for rare animals at night-time in the African forest.*

The only time I had for hunting was after the day's work was done, and so it was that we took to hunting at night with the aid of torches. We would **scour** the forest from midnight to three o'clock in the morning, and by this method we obtained a number of nocturnal beasts which we should otherwise never have seen.

The forest at night was a very different place from the forest by day: everything seemed awake and watchful, and eyes gleamed in the treetops above you. Rustles and squeaks came from the undergrowth, and by the light of the torch you could see a creeper swaying and twitching, indication of some movement one hundred and fifty feet above you in the black treetops. Ripe fruit would patter down on to the forest floor, and dead twigs would fall. The cicadas[1], who never seemed to sleep, would be screeching away, and occasionally a big bird would start a loud 'Carr…carr…' cry, which would echo through the forest. One of the commonest night noises was caused by an animal which I think was a tree hyrax[2]. It would start off its piercing whistle softly, at regular intervals, then gradually it would work faster and faster until the sounds almost merged, and the whistle would get shriller and shriller. Then, just as it reached a top note and its highest speed, the cry would stop, as though cut short with a knife, leaving the air still quivering with the echoes of the cry. Then there were the frogs and toads: as darkness fell they would start, whistling, hooting, rattling, chirruping and croaking. They seemed to be everywhere, from the tops of the highest trees, to the smallest holes under the rocks on the river banks.

The forest seemed twice as big as normal when you were hunting at night: you moved along under the great, rustling canopy of trees, and outside your torch beam everything was a solid wall of blackness. Only in the small pool of light cast by your torch could you see colour, and then, in this false light, the leaves and the grasses seemed to take on an ethereal silvery-green hue. You felt as though you were moving in the darkest depths of the sea, where there had been no light for a million years, and the pathetically feeble glow of your torch showed up the monstrous curling buttress roots[3] of the trees, and faded the coloration of the leaves, and the silver moths fluttered in groups across the beam, and vanished into the gloom like a silvery school of tiny fish. The air was heavy and damp with dew, and by shining your torch beam upwards, until it was lost in the intricate maze of trunks and branches above, you could see the faint wisps of mist coiling sluggishly through the twigs and creepers. Everywhere the heavy black shadows played you false, making tall slender trees seem to crouch on deformed trunks; the tree roots twisted and **writhed** as you moved, seeming to slide away into the darkness, so that you could swear they were alive. It was mysterious, creepy, and completely fascinating.

[1] cicadas – large bugs like grasshoppers which make noises by rubbing their legs together
[2] tree hyrax – an oversized guinea-pig type creature with rounded ears and no tail.
[3] buttress roots – large wide roots which prevent the tree from falling over

**Section A: You have 30 minutes to answer the following questions in the spaces provided.**

- **Write in full sentences,** unless you are asked to do otherwise.
- Remember to **check your spelling, punctuation and grammar** carefully, as three marks are awarded for the accuracy of your answers.

1. **Explain in your own words** why Gerald Durrell had to go hunting for animals at night. [1 mark]

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/1

2. **In your own words**, explain the useful outcome of the night-time trips into the forest. [2 marks]

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/2

3. **In your own words**, explain which movements suggested that various creatures were active in the treetops at night. [3 marks]

/3

4. 'The forest seemed twice as big as normal when you were hunting at night.' (line 20)
Explain **in your own words** why it felt like this. [2 marks]

/2

5. 'You felt as though you were moving in the darkest depths of the sea' (line 24). Explain **in your own words** why being in the forest at night felt like this. [2 marks]

/2

6. 'Everywhere the heavy black shadows played you false.' (lines 30-31).
Explain **in your own words** what you think this sentence means. [1 mark]

/1

7. Look closely at lines 30-34. How does Gerald Durrell make the trees sound particularly creepy in these lines? Try to refer to at least two details from the passage. [4 marks]

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/4

8. Explain **in your own words** what you think the following words mean. They are in **bold** in the passage so that you can find them easily. You do not need to write in full sentences. [2 marks]

**'scour'** (line 2)

_____

**'writhed'** (line 32)

_____

/2

9. The following passage contains errors in spelling and punctuation. Copy it out very carefully, putting in the **correct punctuation and spelling**. [5 marks]

The man looked for the place were the frog sat. he couldent see it well because it was a bit to dark. Before he new it, the frog had jumped up onto the mans hand. He was so surprised that he screemed and through the frog on the ground. He ran back too the rest of the hunters feeling quiet embarrassed.

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/5

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| Mark for SPaG: | /3 |
| Total mark for Section A: | /25 |

**Please turn over for Section B – Creative Writing**

# Section B: CREATIVE WRITING

## *Spend up to 30 minutes on this section.*

**Answer the following question:**

Imagine that you are in **one** of the following familiar places at night-time:

- A school
- A supermarket
- A train station

Describe what you see and hear, and your thoughts and feelings. Think about the ways in which the atmosphere is different at night.

[25 marks]

**Remember to:**

- Include interesting descriptions and details in your writing to make it a good read.
- Avoid making up unbelievable events.
- Pay close attention to your spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Use the lines printed on the exam paper for your writing.
- Plan carefully before you begin to write.
- Check your work through at the end.

**End of examination.**

**Check through your work carefully.**

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| Content: | /15 |
| Accuracy: | /10 |
| Total mark: | /25 |