REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

11+ Entrance Examination

ENGLISH

4 January 2019

Time allowed: 60 Minutes

SAMPLE

Write your name in the box below:

Name: ……

English Entrance Exam

Reading Extract

Read this extract. It is about a girl whose best friend has moved away.

Glossary

conjugate – give the different forms of a verb

supernova – a star that suddenly increases in brightness because of a huge explosion

SAMPLE

School's good. I get one hundred per cent in a maths test, finally learn how to **conjugate** German verbs and spend lunchtime in the library researching my favourite star, Alpha Centauri B.

When I know the canteen will be quiet, I go and get some lunch. It looks like almost everyone's been chucked out, but some students from my year – Bella Lofthouse and her friends – are still sitting round a table while the lunchtime supervisors clean up. As I walk past, they glance over at me, and I see Bella's lips curve up in a smile. Quickly, I turn away. Bella is always laughing with her friends and she finds me particularly funny. The longer I hang around the more likely it is that she'll say something to me and somehow I'll end up looking stupid. I grab the first sandwich I see – egg mayonnaise – pay for it, then walk straight out of the canteen.

It's at times like this that I miss Harriet. She was my best friend at school. OK, she was my only friend in or out of school, but that didn't matter because we were soul mates, and we did everything together – walking to school, eating lunch, talking for hours on the phone, sleepovers… Harriet even went camping with me and Mum every summer. Then, one day, she told me that her mum and dad were talking about moving to New Zealand. Five months later, she was gone.

When a huge star dies, there is a massive explosion, a **supernova**, and later, all that's left is a dark, dense black hole where no light can get in or out. From brilliant lightness to total darkness: that's what it felt like when Harriet left.

When I got over the shock of her going and looked around me, there didn't seem to be a place for me anywhere: everyone else was paired up or in groups. I did try to talk to people, wriggle into their conversations, but Harriet had always done the talking for both of us and I was out of practice. Plus, like I said, I was shocked when she went and feeling a bit like a dark, dense black hole.

Who wants to be friends with a dark, dense black hole? No one!

All that darkness has gone now, but the friend-making moment seems to have passed by. Which is why, right now, I'm leaning against the wall by the girls' toilets eating an egg sandwich all on my own.

Like I said. Sometimes I miss Harriet.

SAMPLE

Reading Section: spend 30 minutes answering these questions.

Answer the following questions. Use full sentences when you are asked to do so.

1. Circle the correct option to complete each sentence below.

a) The text begins with the narrator saying she

dislikes school.	enjoys school.
finds school boring.	studies Spanish at school.

(1 mark)

b) In paragraph two, the narrator says that she goes to the canteen when

it is busy.	her friends are there.
she is hungry.	it is empty.

(1 mark)

c) In paragraph two, the narrator leaves the canteen in a rush because

she needs to get to her next lesson.	they don't have the sandwich she wanted.
Bella makes her feel uncomfortable.	Bella was sitting in her seat.

(1 mark)

SAMPLE

2. These words are also used in the extract. Give another word or phrase for each one which has a similar meaning. (3 marks)

Word	Another word or phrase with a similar meaning
chucked out (line 5)	
wriggle (line 23)	
dense (line 25)	

3. In your own words, explain why the narrator feels uncomfortable in the second paragraph. (2 marks)

SAMPLE

4. What does the phrase ‘walked straight out of the canteen’ in lines 10 and 11 suggest? Please use a full sentence to answer. (1 mark)

5. In lines 12-15 of the extract (printed below), how does the narrator emphasise how close her friendship with Harriet was? (1 mark)

“OK, she was my only friend in or out of school, but that didn’t matter because we were soul mates, and we did everything together – walking to school, eating lunch, talking for hours on the phone, sleepovers… Harriet even went camping with me and Mum every summer.”

SAMPLE

6. Read lines 12-15 again (printed below).

“OK, she was my only friend in or out of school, but that didn’t matter because we were soul mates, and we did everything together – walking to school, eating lunch, talking for hours on the phone, sleepovers… Harriet even went camping with me and Mum every summer.”

Identify four nouns and write them in the table below. (4 marks)

7. Read lines 18-19 from the extract again:

"When a huge star dies, there is a massive explosion, a supernova, and later, all that's left is a dark, dense black hole where no light can get in or out."

The narrator is using a metaphor to talk about her friendship with Harriet. What is she suggesting about this friendship? (3 marks)

8. Read lines 19-20 from the extract again: "From brilliant lightness to total darkness: that's what it felt like when Harriet left."

What is suggested about how the narrator feels from this sentence? (2 marks)

SAMPLE

9. Read this section from the text:

"When I got over the shock of her going and looked around me, there didn't seem to be a place for me anywhere: everyone else was paired up or in groups. I did try to talk to people, wriggle into their conversations, but Harriet had always done the talking for both of us and I was out of practice. Plus, like I said, I was shocked when she went and feeling a bit like a dark, dense black hole." (Lines 21 to 25)

How does the writer emphasise the character's loneliness here?

Choose two examples and explain each one. Please use full sentences. There is a completed example to help you. (4 marks)

Example	**Explanation**
"wriggle into their conversations"	In this quotation, the character seems to be having trouble in talking to people. This is emphasised by the phrase 'wriggle into their conversations' because it suggests that she is having trouble finding a place to start conversations and get into friendship groups. The word 'wriggle' suggests a difficult movement, which further suggests her problems.

SAMPLE

Now complete your own answers in this table.

Example	Explanation

SAMPLE

10. How do we feel about the narrator at the end of the extract and why? For example, do we feel sorry for her? (2 marks)

END OF READING QUESTIONS.

TURN OVER FOR THE WRITING SECTION.

SAMPLE

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

TURN OVER FOR THE WRITING QUESTIONS.

SAMPLE

Writing Section

You should spend 30 minutes on this section. Use the planning page opposite to plan before you begin. Use five minutes to plan.

When you write, remember to check:

- Spelling;
- Paragraphing;
- Punctuation;
- Descriptive techniques;
- Detailed description and interesting vocabulary;
- Using similes and metaphors that are appropriate to the story, setting and character.

Choose ONE of the tasks below and write your story on the pages that follow.

1. Write a story with the title 'The Lighthouse'.

   You could write about a time you have experienced or use your imagination and create a fictional story. (25 marks)

OR

2. Use this image to help you write a story which starts with this sentence: "Snow covered the whole field." (25 marks)



END OF QUESTIONS

SAMPLE

PLANNING PAGE

SAMPLE

Write your answer here.

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE