11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Sample Paper

SOLIHULL

2016

ENGLISH

11+ English Entrance Examination

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Section A

Section A has **two tasks;** you should attempt them all. You should aim to spend **one hour** on this section.

Task 1

Read the passage then answer the questions that follow. The extract is taken from J. R. R. Tolkien's novel, *The Hobbit.* Bilbo Baggins, a quiet and unassuming hobbit, has been persuaded to travel on a quest with a company of thirteen dwarves to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. In the extract, Bilbo is about to make his way through a tunnel that leads through the side of the Lonely Mountain where the treasure is hidden. This task is worth **thirty five marks.**

The stars were coming out behind him in a pale sky barred with black when the hobbit crept through the enchanted door and stole into the Mountain. It was far easier going than he expected. This was no goblin entrance, or rough wood-elves' cave. It was a passage made by dwarves: straight as a ruler, smooth-floored and smooth-sided, going with a gentle never-varying slope direct – to some distant end in the blackness below.

The hobbit slipped on his ring and crept noiselessly down, down, down into the dark. He was trembling with fear, but his little face was set and grim. Already he was a very different hobbit from the one that had left the safe comforts of Bag-End long ago. He loosened his dagger in its sheath, tightened its belt, and went on.



He was altogether alone. Soon he thought it was beginning to feel warm. "Is that a kind of glow I seem to see coming right ahead down there?" he thought.

It was. As he went forward it grew and grew, till there was no doubt about it. It was a red light steadily getting redder and redder. Also it was now undoubtedly hot in the tunnel. Wisps of vapour floated up and past him and he began to sweat. A sound, too, began to throb in his ears, a sort of bubbling like the noise of a large pot galloping on the fire, mixed with a rumble as of a gigantic tom-cat purring. This grew to the vast unmistakable gurgling noise of some vast animal snoring in its sleep down there in the red glow in front of him.

It was at this point that Bilbo stopped. Going on from here was the bravest thing he ever did. The tremendous things that happened afterwards were as nothing compared to it. He fought the real battle in the tunnel alone, before he ever saw the vast danger that lay in wait. At any rate after a short halt he did go on, and you can picture him coming to the end of the tunnel, an opening of much the same size and shape as the door above. Through it peeps the hobbit's little head. Before him lies the great bottommost cellar or dungeon-hall of the ancient dwarves right at the Mountain's root. It is almost dark so that its vastness can only be dimly guessed, but rising from the near side of the rocky floor there is a great glow. The glow of Smaug!



There he lay, a vast red-golden dragon, fast asleep; a thrumming came from his jaws and nostrils, and wisps of smoke, but his fires were low in slumber. Beneath him, under all his limbs and his huge coiled tail, and about him on all sides stretching away across the unseen floors, lay countless piles of precious things, gold wrought and unwrought, gems and jewels, and silver red-stained in the ruddy light.

Smaug lay, with wings folded like an immeasurable bat, turned partly on one side, so that the hobbit could see his underparts and his long pale belly crusted with gems and fragments of gold from his long lying on his costly bed. Behind him where the walls were nearest could dimly be seen coats of mail, helms and axes, swords and spears hanging; and there in rows stood great jars and vessels filled with a wealth that could not be guessed.

Questions:

1. Where is Bilbo at the beginning of the extract?

   Answer ..... (1)

2. According to Bilbo, who were responsible for making the tunnel?

   Answer .....

   ..... (1)

3. What type of word is ‘noiselessly’? Is it a verb, and adjective, a noun, an adverb or a preposition?

   Answer ..... (1)

4. What did Bilbo slip on? Why do you think he might have done this?

Answer.....

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..... (2)

5. Describe Bilbo's emotions as he begins his journey down the tunnel. Use quotations to support your answer.

Answer.....

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6. Explain what Tolkien means in the following sentence: '*Already he was a very different hobbit from the one that had left the safe comforts of Bag-End long ago.*'

Answer.....

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7. Of what does Bilbo start to become aware whilst travelling down the tunnel?

Answer.....

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8. Find two examples of when Tolkien uses a simile in the passage and copy them down.

Answer.....

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9. Find an example from the passage when the writer appeals to the reader's sense of sound. Describe the effect it has.

Answer.....

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10. Explain, in your own words, the meaning of the following two sentences: *'The tremendous things that happened afterwards were as nothing compared to it. He fought the real battle in the tunnel alone, before he ever saw the vast danger that lay in wait.'*

Answer.....

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11. Who does Bilbo discover at the end of the tunnel?

Answer..... (2)

12. Describe the atmosphere that the writer creates in this extract. In completing this task, think about the ways in which Tolkien uses particular words, phrases and images to create a striking atmosphere. Also use quotations to support your response.

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Task 2

Choose **one** of the following creative writing challenges. Write your answer on the lined paper provided. This task is worth **forty marks**. **Twenty four marks** are available for the content and organisation of your writing. **Sixteen marks** are available for the technical and grammatical accuracy of your writing.

For all of the challenges, you will be marked on:

- your use of varied, interesting vocabulary including verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs
- the accuracy of your grammar and expression
- the originality of your ideas
- your ability to create an interesting and exciting story or description

1. Write a **description** of a forest. Write about lots of different things that you can see and hear around you and try to use **all five senses** in your description. You do not need to tell a story; you will be marked on how well you can **describe** the scene. You can use the picture below as inspiration.



2. Write the **first chapter of a longer story**. You should use the sentences below as your opening:

I banged loudly on the door, begging to be let in. When the door finally opened, I could not believe the sight before me.

3. Imagine you are the man in the picture below. Write a **short story**, using the scene in the picture as a starting point. The box he is opening appears laden with treasure.



Section B

Section B has only one task; please attempt this. It is expected that you will find these questions more challenging.

Task 1

Read the poem below then answer the questions that follow. You should aim to spend **thirty minutes** on this task. It is worth **twenty marks.**

Daffodils

I wander'd lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils,
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.



Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretch'd in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee: -
A poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company!
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought.

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the daffodils.

By William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

1. What technique has the writer used in the opening line? What effect does it have upon the way we view the speaker?

   Answer.....

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2. The poem is written from the first person perspective. What effect does this have?

   Answer.....

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3. By suggesting that the daffodils are ‘dancing’, the poet has used which technique? What effect does it have?

   Answer.....

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4. Why are the daffodils compared to the Milky Way?

   Answer.....

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5. In your own words, explain the meaning of the following lines: *'I gazed - and gazed - but little thought / What wealth the show to me had brought*'.

Answer.....

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6. According to the final stanza, what effect does the remembrance of the daffodils have upon the speaker? What does this suggest about the power of nature?

Answer.....

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(End)