City of London School

Specimen Entrance Examination
to join First Form (11+)

ENGLISH

Passage and Instructions

INSTRUCTIONS

- You have one hour to complete the paper
- You should spend roughly 30 minutes on each section
- Both sections are worth equal marks
- Once you have finished Section A you should immediately begin Section B
- Section A assesses reading and is multiple choice: each question has only one correct answer
- Section B assesses creative writing: read the instructions and then continue the story in the lined space provided
- To answer both sections you will first need to read the passage over the page
- Certain words and phrases have been underlined; this is to help you find them when answering questions in Section A

Write your name on both answer booklets.

Turn over the page and read the passage when the exam begins.

PASSAGE (from *A Tale of Two Cities)*

In this passage, the writer describes England in 1775 – a lawless time of thieves and highwaymen (robbers who stole from travellers). The Dover Mail was the equivalent of the Royal Mail – a horse-drawn coach delivering the post.

In England, there was scarcely an amount of order and protection to justify much national boasting. Daring burglaries by armed men, and highway robberies, took place in the capital itself every night; families were publicly cautioned not to go out of town without removing their furniture to upholsterers' warehouses for security; the highwayman in the dark was a City tradesman in the light; the mail was waylaid by seven robbers, and the guard shot three dead, and then got shot dead himself by the other four, after which the mail was robbed in peace; that magnificent potentate, the Lord Mayor of London, was made to stand and deliver on Turnham Green by one highwayman, who despoiled him in sight of all his retinue; thieves snipped off diamond crosses from the necks of noble lords at Court drawing-rooms; musketeers went into St. Giles's, to search for contraband goods, and the mob fired on the musketeers, and the musketeers fired on the mob, and nobody thought any of these occurrences much out of the common way.

It was the Dover road that lay, on a Friday night late in November, before the first of the persons with whom this history has business. The Dover road lay, as to him, beyond the Dover mail, as it lumbered up Shooter's Hill. He walked up hill in the mire by the side of the mail, as the rest of the passengers did; not because they had the least relish for walking exercise, under the circumstances, but because the hill, and the harness, and the mud, and the mail, were all so heavy, that the horses had three times already come to a stop, besides once drawing the coach across the road, with the mutinous intent of taking it back to Blackheath. Reins and whip and coachman and guard, however, in combination, had read that article of war which forbade that some brute animals are endued with Reason; and the team had capitulated and returned to their duty. With drooping heads and tremulous tails, they mashed their way through the thick mud, floundering and stumbling between whiles, as if they were falling to pieces at the larger joints.

There was a steaming mist in all the hollows, and it had roamed in its forlornness up the hill, like an evil spirit, seeking rest and finding none. A clammy and intensely cold mist, it made its slow way through the air in ripples that visibly followed and overspread one another, as the waves of an unwholesome sea might do. It was dense enough to shut out everything from the light of the coach-lamps but these its own workings, and a few yards of road; and the reek of the labouring horses steamed into it, as if they had made it all.

Two other passengers, besides the one, were plodding up the hill by the side of the mail. All three were wrapped to the cheekbones and over the ears, and wore jack-boots. Not one of the three could have said, from anything he saw, what either of the other two was like; and each was hidden under almost as many wrappers from the eyes of the mind, as from the eyes

of the body, of his two companions. In those days, travellers were very shy of being confidential on a short notice, for anybody on the road might be a robber or in league with robbers; they all suspected everybody else.

"Wo-ho!" said the coachman. "Joe!"

"Halloa!" the guard replied.

"What o'clock do you make it, Joe?"

"Ten minutes, good, past eleven."

"My blood!" ejaculated the vexed coachman, "and not atop of Shooter's yet! Tst! Yah! Get on with you!"

The last burst carried the mail to the summit of the hill. The horses stopped to breathe again, and the guard got down to skid the wheel for the descent, and open the coach-door to let the passengers in.

"Tst! Joe!" cried the coachman in a warning voice, looking down from his box.

"What do you say, Tom?"

They both listened.

"I say a horse at a canter coming up, Joe."

"I say a horse at a gallop, Tom," returned the guard, leaving his hold of the door, and mounting nimbly to his place. "Gentlemen! In the king's name, all of you!"

With this hurried adjuration, he cocked his blunderbuss, and stood on the offensive.

Now turn to Section A and answer the questions.

ENGLISH – SECTION A

Instructions

- Answer each question by writing A, B, C or D in the space provided
- Each question has only one correct answer
- This answer paper will be collected after 30 minutes.
- You may move straight on to Section B when you have finished

Questions

1. Which statement best describes the picture of England given in the first paragraph?

A. People boasted of how they were not afraid of the violent robberies
B. Violent robberies were frequent and people were afraid
C. People wore disguises so their bravery was not recognised
D. People boasted of how good their disguises were

Your answer: _____

2. Where did most of the robberies occur?

A. In Turnham Green
B. Outside London
C. In London
D. In St Giles' church

Your answer: _____

3. What is the effect of the writer's use of semi-colons in this paragraph?

A. To make the narrator seem out of breath for effect
B. To ensure that the sentences do not get too long
C. To build up long descriptive sentences for effect
D. To show that each sentence follows on from the last

Your answer: _____

4. What do you understand by the following phrase: 'the highwayman in the dark was a City tradesman in the light'?

A. Highwaymen do the same work as City traders
B. City tradesmen turned out the lights for highwaymen
C. City tradesmen have to work two jobs to survive
D. A City tradesman might rob people at night

Your answer: _____

5. What happens to the mail?

A. A bloody shootout occurs, after which no-one resists further robberies
B. A bloody shootout occurs, after which no-one dares rob the mail
C. A bloody shootout occurs, after which peace is restored
D. A bloody shootout occurs, after which a peaceful silence ensues

Your answer: _____

6. What are we told regarding the Mayor of London?

- **A.** The Mayor shows a great deal of potential delivering a speech on Turnham Green
- **B.** The Mayor is forced to deliver mail to Turnham Green because there are no postmen
- **C.** The Mayor is robbed on Turnham Green and humiliated in front of his followers
- **D.** The Mayor is robbed on Turnham Green and delivers a speech showing his potential to his followers

Your answer: _____

7. What do you understand by the phrase 'nobody thought any of these occurrences much out of the common way'?

- **A.** Common people did not think much about these events
- **B.** Common people did not go out of their way to consider these incidents
- **C.** People thought that these events were not common
- **D.** People thought that these incidents were common

Your answer: _____

8. What is the effect of the opening sentence of paragraph two?

- **A.** To move the story on from London to Dover
- **B.** To move the story on to specific events
- **C.** To give a sense of the history behind the narrative
- **D.** To introduce the history of the mail business

Your answer: _____

9. Which of the following is the best synonym for the word 'lumbered' in this context?

- **A.** Climbed
- **B.** Burdened
- **C.** Plodded
- **D.** Loaded

Your answer: _____

10. Which word in the second or third paragraph emphasises how muddy the road is?

- **A.** Reek
- **B.** Mire
- **C.** Tremulous
- **D.** Clammy

Your answer: _____

11. From where has the coach come?

- **A.** Dover
- **B.** Shooter's Hill
- **C.** Blackheath
- **D.** Turnham Green

Your answer: _____

12. Why are the passengers walking?

- **A.** They wanted to get some exercise
- **B.** They were scared of being trapped inside by robbers
- **C.** The horses had decided to stop
- **D.** The horses could not pull them and everything else

Your answer: _____

13. Who is feeling 'mutinous'?

- **A.** The passengers
- **B.** The horses
- **C.** The driver
- **D.** The highwaymen

Your answer: _____

14. What do you think the word 'capitulated' means in this context?

- **A.** Gave in
- **B.** Returned to the capital city
- **C.** Agreed
- **D.** Considered their options

Your answer: _____

15. What do you understand by the last sentence of paragraph two?

- **A.** After a rest, the horses are refreshed and continue walking
- **B.** The horses are terrified of the coachman
- **C.** The horses are exhausted and find continuing the journey difficult
- **D.** The horses want to continue but they are stuck in the mud

Your answer: _____

16. What technique is the writer using when he says 'as if they were falling to pieces at the larger joints'?

- **A.** Metaphor
- **B.** Simile
- **C.** Personification
- **D.** Analogy

Your answer: _____

17. What type of words are 'mashed', 'floundering' and 'stumbling'?

- **A.** Prepositions
- **B.** Adjectives
- **C.** Adverbs
- **D.** Verbs

Your answer: _____

18. 'There was a steaming mist in all the hollows, and it had roamed in its forlornness up the hill, like an evil spirit, seeking rest and finding none' – what two techniques are used in this sentence?

- **A.** Simile and metaphor
- **B.** Metaphor and personification
- **C.** Simile and personification
- **D.** Metaphor and analogy

Your answer: _____

19. What is the narrative effect of the description of the mist in paragraph three?

- **A.** It makes it seem like a horror story
- **B.** The lack of visibility contributes to the tension
- **C.** It helps the reader see a picture in his or her mind of the mist
- **D.** It makes it clear that there is a highwayman hidden in the mist

Your answer: _____

20. What does the writer imply through the following statement: 'each was hidden under almost as many wrappers from the eyes of the mind, as from the eyes of the body'?

- **A.** They were covered from head to toe in clothing
- **B.** Their eyes were covered so they could not see
- **C.** Their imaginations were affected by the mist and cold
- **D.** They revealed nothing to each other because they were suspicious

Your answer: _____

21. Which statement best describes the character of the coachman?

- **A.** Friendly, impatient and nervous
- **B.** Friendly, patient and nervous
- **C.** Irritated, impatient and nervous
- **D.** Irritated, patient and nervous

Your answer: _____

22. Why is the coachman 'vexed'?

- **A.** He can hear people approaching
- **B.** He is afraid they will be shot
- **C.** He feels they are going too slowly
- **D.** He does not get on with the guard

Your answer: _____

23. What is the effect of the short sentences at the end of the passage?

- **A.** It makes the coachman and guard seem tense and fearful
- **B.** It makes it easier to read
- **C.** It shows that the coachman and guard are not very clever
- **D.** It slows down the pace of the passage, allowing the reader to think more carefully

Your answer: _____

24. How does the writer build tension at the end of this passage?

- **A.** He deliberately confuses the reader with a lot of detail
- **B.** He does not tell the reader who is approaching through the mist
- **C.** He does not tell the reader who is on the coach
- **D.** He deliberately provides a minimum of detail to the reader

Your answer: _____

25. What do you think an 'adjuration' is, based upon the context?

- **A.** A desperate request
- **B.** A whispered order
- **C.** A movement
- **D.** A fearful thought

Your answer: _____

Now turn to Section B and begin the writing task.

ENGLISH – SECTION B

INSTRUCTIONS

- Respond to the task in the in the lined space provided over the page.
- You should spend around 30 minutes on this section.
- You do not have to finish the story – quality over quantity is preferred.
- You are being assessed on your ability to:
    - Write using accurate sentences, spelling and punctuation
    - Develop a realistic, well-paced story
    - Write engagingly to interest the reader

TURN OVER TO BEGIN THE TASK

TASK:

Continue the story, recounting what happens next as the passengers on the coach find out what is coming towards them.

- Spend 5 minutes planning your writing in the box below

Section A: MARK SCHEME

1. Which statement best describes the picture of England given in the first paragraph?
- **A.** People boasted of how they were not afraid of the violent robberies
- **B.** Violent robberies were frequent and people were afraid
- **C.** People wore disguises so their bravery was not recognised
- **D.** People boasted of how good their disguises were

B

2. Where did most of the robberies occur?
- **A.** In Turnham Green
- **B.** Outside London
- **C.** In London
- **D.** In St Giles' church

C

3. What is the effect of the writer's use of semi-colons in this paragraph?
- **A.** To make the narrator seem out of breath for effect
- **B.** To ensure that the sentences do not get too long
- **C.** To build up long descriptive sentences for effect
- **D.** To show that each sentence follows on from the last

C

4. What do you understand by the following phrase: 'the highwayman in the dark was a City tradesman in the light'?
- **A.** Highwaymen do the same work as City traders
- **B.** City tradesmen turned out the lights for highwaymen
- **C.** City tradesmen have to work two jobs to survive
- **D.** A City tradesman might rob people at night

D

5. What happens to the mail?
- **A.** A bloody shootout occurs, after which no-one resists further robberies
- **B.** A bloody shootout occurs, after which no-one dares rob the mail
- **C.** A bloody shootout occurs, after which peace is restored
- **D.** A bloody shootout occurs, after which a peaceful silence ensues

A

6. What are we told regarding the Mayor of London?
- **A.** The Mayor shows a great deal of potential delivering a speech on Turnham Green
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- **C.** The Mayor is robbed on Turnham Green and humiliated in front of his followers
- **D.** The Mayor is robbed on Turnham Green and delivers a speech showing his potential to his followers

C

7. What do you understand by the phrase 'nobody thought any of these occurrences much out of the common way'?
- **A.** Common people did not think much about these events
- **B.** Common people did not go out of their way to consider these incidents
- **C.** People thought that these events were not common
- **D.** People thought that these incidents were common

D

8. What is the effect of the opening sentence of paragraph two?
- **A.** To move the story on from London to Dover
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- **D.** To introduce the history of the mail business

B

9. Which of the following is the best synonym for the word 'lumbered' in this context?
- **A.** Climbed
- **B.** Burdened
- **C.** Plodded
- **D.** Loaded

C

10. Which word in the second or third paragraph emphasises how muddy the road is?
- **A.** Reek
- **B.** Mire
- **C.** Tremulous
- **D.** Clammy

B

11. From where has the coach come?
- **A.** Dover
- **B.** Shooter's Hill
- **C.** Blackheath
- **D.** Turnham Green

C

12. Why are the passengers walking?
- **A.** They wanted to get some exercise
- **B.** They were scared of being trapped inside by robbers
- **C.** The horses had decided to stop
- **D.** The horses could not pull them and everything else

D

13. Who is feeling 'mutinous'?
- **A.** The passengers
- **B.** The horses
- **C.** The driver
- **D.** The highwaymen

B

14. What do you think the word 'capitulated' means in this context?
- **A.** Gave in
- **B.** Returned to the capital city
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A

15. What do you understand by the last sentence of paragraph two?
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- **B.** The horses are terrified of the coachman
- **C.** The horses are exhausted and find continuing the journey difficult
- **D.** The horses want to continue but they are stuck in the mud

C

16. What technique is the writer using when he says 'as if they were falling to pieces at the larger joints'?
- **A.** Metaphor
- **B.** Simile
- **C.** Personification
- **D.** Analogy

B

17. What type of words are 'mashed', 'floundering' and 'stumbling'?
- **A.** Prepositions
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D

18. 'There was a steaming mist in all the hollows, and it had roamed in its forlornness up the hill, like an evil spirit, seeking rest and finding none' – what two techniques are used in this sentence?

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B. Their eyes were covered so they could not see
C. Their imaginations were affected by the mist and cold
D. They revealed nothing to each other because they were suspicious

D

21. Which statement best describes the character of the coachman?

A. Friendly, impatient and nervous
B. Friendly, patient and nervous
C. Irritated, impatient and nervous
D. Irritated, patient and nervous

C

22. Why is the coachman 'vexed'?

A. He can hear people approaching
B. He is afraid they will be shot
C. He feels they are going too slowly
D. He does not get on with the guard

C

23. What is the effect of the short sentences at the end of the passage?

A. It makes the coachman and guard seem tense and fearful
B. It makes it easier to read
C. It shows that the coachman and guard are not very clever
D. It slows down the pace of the passage, allowing the reader to think more carefully

A

24. How does the writer build tension at the end of this passage?

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B. He does not tell the reader who is approaching through the mist
C. He does not tell the reader who is on the coach
D. He deliberately provides a minimum of detail to the reader

B

25. What do you think an 'adjuration' is, based upon the context?

A. A desperate request
B. A whispered order
C. A movement
D. A fearful thought

A