ST ALBANS SCHOOL

# 11+ Entrance Examination 2019

# English

**(80 minutes)**

Section A: Reading (40 minutes)
Section B: Writing (40 minutes)

| Surname | First Name |
|---|---|
| | |

| Date of Birth |
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| Score Total |
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SPECIMEN

**SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION**

***SPEND 40 MINUTES ON THIS SECTION*** ***[40 marks]***

*This passage is taken from a novel for young adults. In this part of the book, the main character is on the run, trying to escape from the demon-creatures that have killed his father and injured him. He now finds himself alone in the forest.*

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Write your answers in the spaces provided.**

Pulling his axe from his belt, he went over to a clump of birch and put his hand on the smallest. He gathered his strength and started to chop.

The effort made his head swim. The cut on his forearm throbbed savagely but he forced himself to keep chopping.

He was in an endless dark tunnel of chopping and stripping branches and more chopping. But when his arms had turned to water and he could chop no more, he saw with alarm that he'd only managed to cut down two spindly birch saplings and a puny spruce.

They'd have to do.

He lashed the saplings together with a split root to make a low, rickety lean-to, then he covered it on three sides with spruce boughs, and dragged in a few to lie on.

It was pretty hopeless, but it would have to do: he didn't have the strength to rain-proof it with leafmould. If it rained, he'd have to trust his sleeping sack to keep him dry and pray that the river spirits didn't send another flood, because he'd built too close to the water.

SPECIMEN

Munching a handful of nuts from his pocket, he scanned the clearing for firewood. But he'd only just swallowed the last nut when his belly heaved and he spewed them all up again.

Why did I do that? thought Torak. Did I eat something bad? But it didn't feel like bad food.

It felt like something else.

He realised then that he was sweating and shivering, and although there was nothing left in his stomach to throw up, he still felt sick.

A horrible suspicion gripped him. He unwound the bandage on his forearm – and fear settled on him like an icy fog. The wound was a swollen, angry red. It smelled bad, and he could feel the terrible heat coming off it. When he touched it, pain rose like sudden flames.

A sob rose in his chest. He was exhausted, hungry and frightened. And now he had a new enemy.

Fever.

***End of passage***

SPECIMEN

**Now answer the questions below.**

1. What is the main character's name, and where is he injured? *[2 marks]*

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2. With what items does the main character attempt to build a shelter? You may quote short phrases but not whole sentences. *[3 marks]*

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3. In the middle of the passage, what unpleasant physical event happens to the main character, and why does he initially think this has happened? *[2 marks]*

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4. What is the "horrible suspicion" experienced by the character (line 25)? Explain why you think this could be particularly dangerous in his situation.

*[3 marks]*

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5. For each of the following words taken from the passage, write down <u>a word</u> which means <u>the same</u> as the word in the passage.

*[4 marks]*

i) Pulling

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ii) Gathered

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iii) Rickety

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iv) Lashed

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6. For each of the following words taken from the passage, write down <u>a word</u> which means <u>the opposite</u> to the word in the passage.

*[4 marks]*

i) Strength

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ii) Hungry

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iii) Puny

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iv) Exhausted

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7. Re-read lines 3 to 8. Identify (and quote) TWO images and comment on their effect. *[6 marks]*

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8. Explain in your own words how the character feels in lines 1-9 of the passage and why he feels this way. Support your answer with reference to the text. *[3 marks]*

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9. What is the effect of the following simile: "*fear settled on him like an icy fog*" (line 26)? *[2 marks]*

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10. What is the effect of the dash in the sentence in lines 25 and 26: "*He unwound the bandage on his forearm – and fear settled on him like an icy fog*"? *[2 marks]*

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11. What is the effect of the final one-word, one sentence paragraph at the end of the extract? Why do you think the author has decided to set out the text in this way? *[3 marks]*

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SPECIMEN

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12. How has the writer made this section of this novel exciting for the reader? Support your ideas with THREE examples from the text.

*[6 marks]*

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**END OF SECTION A**

**PLEASE TURN OVER FOR SECTION B**

SPECIMEN

**SECTION B: WRITING**
***SPEND 40 MINUTES ON THIS SECTION*** ***[40 marks]***

- *Write an answer based on **ONE** of the following questions.*

- *Remember to put **your <u>full</u> name** on your sheet of paper and the **number of the question** you are answering. Anonymous work may not be marked.*

- ***Plan** your work before you start and **check** it through before you finish. Remember to punctuate and spell carefully**: marks will be awarded for the quality of your spelling, punctuation and grammar.***

**EITHER**

1. Use the image below to inspire a piece of **descriptive** or **narrative (story)** writing. Answers not based on the image will be penalised.



**OR**

2. "Success in life depends on luck as well as talent." Write an **essay arguing for** or **against** this statement.

**END OF SECTION B**

SPECIMEN