ST ALBANS SCHOOL

11+ Entrance Examination 2014

English

(90 minutes)

You have **10 minutes reading time**.
You may not begin writing in this time.

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

Surname	First Name

Date of Birth

Score Total

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

SPEND 40 MINUTES ON THIS SECTION ***[30 marks]***

This passage is taken from a longer story about a boy who is on a journey to rid his world of evil. At this point, the boy has found a cave where he believes an important object is hidden, and is about to enter.

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

He groped for the wall. It felt slimy, like dead flesh.

He shuffled forward, feeling the way with his feet. The rushlight trembled and shrank to a glimmer. The stench wafted up from the darkness, stinging his nostrils.

After several halting steps, he came up against stone. The cave mouth had narrowed to a gullet[1]: he'd have to turn sideways to get through. Shutting his eyes, he edged in. It felt as if he was being swallowed. He couldn't breathe. He kept thinking of the weight of the rockface pressing in on him…

The air cooled. He was still in a tunnel, but it was wider, and twisted sharply to the right. Glancing back, he saw that the daylight had vanished, and with it, Renn and Wolf.

The stink got stronger as he followed the tunnel, hearing nothing but his own breathing, seeing nothing but glimpses of glistening red stone.

A sudden chill to his left, and he nearly lost his footing. Pebbles rattled, then dropped into silence.

The left hand wall had vanished. He was standing on a narrow ledge jutting out over darkness. From far below came an echoing 'plink' of water. One slip and he'd be over the edge.

Another bend – this time to the left – and a rock beneath his foot tilted. With a cry, he grabbed for a handhold, righting himself just in time.

At the sound of his cry, something stirred.

He froze.

'Torak?' Renn's voice sounded far away.

[1] Gullet = oesophagus, or throat

He didn't dare call out. Whatever had moved had gone still again: but it was a horrible, waiting stillness. It knew he was there. 'The Watchers everywhere. They see you but you don't see them. Not till it's too late.'

He forced himself to go on. Down, always down. The stink came at him in waves. *Breathe through your mouth*, said a voice in his head. That was what he and Fa used to do when they came upon a stinking kill-site or a bat-infested cave. He tried it, and the stench became bearable, but it still caught at his eyes and throat.

Abruptly the ground levelled out, and he felt a space opening up around him. A dim light had to be coming from somewhere because he could make out a vast, shadowy cavern. The fumes were almost overwhelming. He was in the dripping, reeking bowels of the earth.

End of passage

Now answer the questions below.

1. List four things which make the journey into the cave difficult and uncomfortable for the boy:

[4 marks]

i) .....

ii) .....

iii) .....

iv) .....

2. For each of the following words, write down a word or phrase which means the same. You **do not** need to use words from the passage.

[2 marks]

i) Reeking

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ii) Glimmer

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3. For each of the following words**,** write down a word or phrase which means the opposite. You **do not** need to use words from the passage.

[2 marks]

i) Dim

.....

ii) Overwhelming

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4. What simile does the writer use to describe the entrance to the cave?

[1 mark]

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5. What does the quotation *"It felt as if he was being swallowed"* (line 7) tell you about the way the boy was feeling as he entered the cave?

[2 marks]

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6. What danger does the boy face in lines 14 - 20?

[1 mark]

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7. Look again at these lines taken from the middle of the extract:

"At the sound of his cry**,** something stirred.
He froze.
'Torak?' Renn's voice sounded far away."

Why do you think the writer uses single line paragraphs at this moment?

[2 marks]

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8. From the paragraph beginning "*He didn't dare call out"* (line 24) find **two quotations** that create an eerie atmosphere. Write one of these quotations in each of the spaces below.

[1 mark per quotation. 2 in total]

(i) .....

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(ii) .....

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9. How does the boy convince himself to continue in the paragraph beginning "*He forced himself to go on"* (line 27)*?*

[3 marks]

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For the final three questions, you should use quotations or details from the passage to support your answers.

10. Re-read the final paragraph of the passage. How does the description of the cave make you feel about the boy's situation?

[3 marks]

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11. This is a very tense passage. Which moments do you think build the suspense throughout the extract, and why do they make you want to read on?

[4 marks]

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12. This passage is taken from the beginning of a longer story. What kind of story do you think this is, and what details from the passage give you this idea?

[4 marks]

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END OF SECTION A

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

SECTION B: WRITING

SPEND 40 MINUTES ON THIS SECTION ***[30 marks]***

- *Write an answer based on **ONE** of the following questions. (Number your answer!)*

- *Remember to put **your full name** on your sheet of paper and the **number of the question** you are answering.*

- ***Plan** your work before you start and **check** it through before you finish. Remember to **punctuate** and spell carefully, and set out your writing in **paragraphs.***

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.**Write an **essay** about an interesting place in the world and **explain** why it is important that this place is preserved for future generations.

END OF SECTION B