St Dunstan's College
11+ Specimen Paper

English

Full Name	
Candidate Number	

INSTRUCTIONS

Time available: 1 hour

There are 2 sections: Section A and Section B

You are strongly advised to spend:

- 30 minutes on Section A
- 30 minutes on Section B

You should answer:

- **ALL** the questions in Section A
- **ONE** question from Section B

All answers should be written in this booklet

Do not write in the boxes below. This is for examiners' use only

Section A /20	
Section B /30	

Total	
%	

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Section A: Reading

Answer **ALL** questions in this Section.

Read carefully the extract from *Watership Down* by Richard Adams on page 6.

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on this Section.
You should spend 5-10 minutes reading and 20-25 minutes answering the questions.

Questions 1 - 4 are multiple choice. For these questions circle the correct answer.

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1. Read the first paragraph. Where are the rabbits?

beach	town	countryside	pet shop

(1 mark)

2. At what time of day does this adventure take place? (Lines 8-12)

morning	noon	evening	midnight

(1 mark)

3. Read lines 25-26 when Bigwig appears. "They watched him aghast." Which word is closest in meaning to "aghast"?

shocked	annoyed	pleased	confused

(1 mark)

4. Read lines 40-41. The word "agonising" used here is….

A verb	A noun	An adjective	An adverb

(1 mark)

(Continued….)

5. What sort of rabbit is Hazel?

Pick out 3 examples from the text and explain your points.

(6 marks)

6. How does the writer use language to make the fox sound scary?

Pick out 3 examples from the text and explain your points.

(6 marks)

7. What did Bigwig do and how did this help the rest of the rabbits?

(4 marks)

Extract from *Watership Down* by Richard Adams

Hazel, the rabbit, is leading a group of rabbits to safety after a long journey. Suddenly there is danger.

Hazel thought quickly. If the fox were not too close, all they had to do was run. There was woodland nearby and they could vanish into it, keeping more or less together, and simply continue on their way. He pushed through the burdocks.

'How close is it?' he asked. 'And where's Fiver?'

'I'm here,' replied Fiver, from a few yards away. He was squatting under the long briar of a dog-rose and did not turn his head as Hazel came up beside him. 'And there's the fox,' he added. Hazel followed his gaze.

The rough weed-covered grounds of the combe sloped away below them, a long dip bounded on the north by Caesar's Belt. The last of the setting sun shone straight up it through a break in the trees. The fox was below them and still some way off. Although it was almost directly downwind and must therefore be able to smell them, it did not look as though it were particularly interested in rabbits. It was trotting steadily up the combe like a dog, trailing its white-tipped brush. In colour it was sandy brown, with dark legs and ears. Even now, though obviously not hunting, it had a crafty, predatory look that made the watchers among the dog-roses shiver. As it passed behind a patch of thistles and disappeared from view, Hazel and Fiver returned to the others.

'Come on,' said Hazel. 'If you've never seen a fox don't bother to go and look now. Just follow me.'

He was about to lead the way up the south side of the combe, when suddenly a rabbit shouldered him roughly aside, pushed past Fiver and was gone into the open. Hazel stopped and looked round in amazement.

'Who was that?' he asked.

'Bigwig,' answered Fiver, staring.

Together they went quickly back to the briars and once more looked into the combe. Bigwig, in full view, was loping wearily downhill, straight towards the fox. They watched him aghast. He drew near, but still the fox paid no attention.

'Hazel,' said Silver from behind, 'shall I…?'

'No one is to move,' said Hazel quickly. 'Keep still all of you.'

At about thirty yards' distance the fox saw the approaching rabbit. It paused for a moment and then continued to trot forwards. It was almost upon him before Bigwig turned and began to limp up the north slope of the combe towards the trees of the Belt. The fox hesitated and then followed him.

'What's he up to?' muttered Blackberry.

'Trying to draw it off, I suppose,' replied Fiver.

'But he didn't have to. We'd have got away without that.'

'Confounded fool!' said Hazel. ' I don't know when I've been so angry.'

The fox had quickened its pace and was now some distance away from them. It appeared to be overtaking Bigwig. The sun had set and in the failing light they could just make him out as he entered the undergrowth. He disappeared and the fox followed. For several moments all was quiet. Then horribly clear across the darkening, empty combe there came the agonising squeal of a stricken rabbit.

'O Frith and Inlé!' cried Blackberry, stamping. Pipkin turned to bolt. Hazel did not move.

'Shall we go, Hazel?' asked Silver. 'We can't help him now'

As he spoke, Bigwig suddenly broke out of the trees, running very fast. Almost before they could grasp that he was alive, he had recrossed the entire upper slope of the combe in a single dash and bolted in among them.

'Come on,' said Bigwig, 'let's get out of here!'

'But what – what – are you wounded?' asked Bluebell in bewilderment.

'No,' said Bigwig. 'Never better! Let's go!'

'You can wait until I'm ready', said Hazel in a cold, angry tone. 'You've done your best to kill yourself and acted like a complete fool. Now hold your tongue and sit down.' He turned and, although it was rapidly becoming too dark to see any distance, made as though he were still looking out across the combe. Behind him, the rabbits fidgeted nervously.

(From Watership Down by Richard Adams, 1972)

Section B: Writing

Answer **ONE** question from this Section.

Spend **30 minutes** on this Section.

Spend **5 minutes** planning and **25 minutes** writing.

Remember to check your work.

EITHER

1. Imagine that you are the fox featured in the passage above. Write about how you approached the rabbits and describe what happened next.

OR

2. You are a pet who has spent their first day with their new family. Write a letter to your friends at the pet shop telling them all about your experiences.

    - You do not need to include your address

(30 marks)

Write your answer to Section B here:

(30 marks)

End of examination

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