St. Francis' College



Practice Paper

ENGLISH

Entry into Year 7

Time allowed - 1 hour

SECTION A

Select the correct option and fill in the gaps. Write on the question paper for this section.

1. "Shall I drive you to school? ……("She asked. "she asked.)
2. She went to netball ……every Monday. (practice practise)
3. "…….. coat is this?" demanded the teacher. (Who's Whose)
4. " …….. more patient when driving?" asked the boy. (Who's Whose)
5. You could ……heard the noise a mile away. (of have)
6. She was always talking and never…….. . (quite quiet)
7. It was hard to decide which cake to…… . (chose choose)
8. When …… time to leave it feels sad. (its it's)
9. The …… shoes were muddy. (childrens's children's)
10. We were going to …… the match. (lose loose)
11. …… house is very pretty. (They're There Their)
12. I went…… last summer. (they're there their)
13. …….. going to visit us next week. (They're There Their)

14. The dog's lead came ……. . (lose loose)

15. I don't …… the answer. (no know now)

16. I …… need the next step of the instructions. (no know now)

17. My father's ……. was always useful. (advise advice)

18. I …… you to listen to that …… . (advise advice)

19. I told a lie and it troubled my…….. . (conscience conscious)

20 marks

SECTION B Comprehension

The following extract is taken from the novel *The War of Jenkins' Ear* by Michael Morpurgo. Read the extract carefully and answer all the questions.

Christopher, a new boy at the boarding school in the novel, has run away on his first night. The following day he is returned to the school by his mother.

The car stayed outside the front door all that afternoon. There was only one way Toby was going to find out what was going on and he was determined to try. His classroom opened into the oak-panelled hall that was the heart of the school. It served variously as an assembly hall every morning, a cinema on Sunday evenings, and a library. The wide steps that led from the hall were known as the Bloody Steps. Carpeted in deep crimson, with polished brass stair rods, they led to Rudolph's apartment. Rudolph's study. To be summoned up those dreaded steps meant only one thing – the cane. Everyone knew that if you stood at the bottom of the Bloody Steps, by the bookcases, and pretended to be looking for a book, you could often hear what was going on inside the study. But how was he going to manage to bluff his way into the hall in the first

place? Mr Cramer may have looked doddery but he was wily, and you couldn't get out of his maths class that easily. He wasn't going to be fooled by the usual lame excuses – they might prove effective with the younger, greener teachers, especially with the French mistress, Madame Lafayette who taught art too and wore sandals and long flowery skirts. Either she believed anything she was told or she didn't mind half the class being absent at the same time. Mr Cramer wasn't like that. It took Toby half an hour to think up his scheme. It had risks but it was worth it. He would try it. He put up his hand.

'Please, sir,' he coughed and sniffed as best he could. 'Please, sir, it's my hay fever.'

'I didn't know you had hay fever, Jenkins.'

'Only sometimes, sir. Matron says that if I feel it coming on I've got to take my tablets.' He hoped he needn't say any more. Matron was the key that opened most doors with teachers. Just the mention of her name was often enough, and so it proved this time.

'Very well, Jenkins. Two minutes.'

Toby closed the classroom door behind him and found himself alone in the hall. He was quite confident that Mr Cramer wouldn't check his story with Matron. He could already hear voices. He stole across the polished floor, unable to stop his sandals squeaking as he went. He peered round the corner. Christopher was sitting on the settle, motionless, his hands on his knees like the statue of an Egyptian pharaoh. The study door opened suddenly and Christopher's mother was coming out. Toby had just enough time to back out of sight along the bookcase. He crouched down and crawled under, backwards. There was nowhere else to hide. 'One thing I'm sure of, Headmaster,' he heard Christopher's mother say, 'is that once he has made a promise he keeps it. He has promised me and he has promised you that he will never again try to run away. Isn't that right dear?'

'Yes, Mother.' Christopher's voice was quite calm.

1. Re-read the opening up to 'and a library.' Indicate whether the following statements are true or false by circling **on the question paper** the letter T or F in each case.

Toby's classroom is in an oak-panelled hall. T F

The school hall is a multi-purpose room. T F

The pupils can take books from the library only on Sundays. T F

The school shows a film on Sunday afternoons. T F

(4 marks)

2. The boys' nickname for the headmaster is Rudolph. From the section in the opening paragraph describing the Bloody Steps, how would you describe the relationship between the boys and Rudolph? Give your reasons and use quotations to support your points.
Answer this question, and all that follow, on file paper. (6 marks)

3. How does the writer show the differences between Mr Cramer and Madame Lafayette? Support your answer with quotations from the text. (6 marks)

4. What does this extract suggest about the character of Matron and how she is viewed in the school? Support your answer with quotations from the text. (4 marks)

5. Using material from throughout the extract, show how the writer creates suspense about what is happening to Christopher. (10 marks)

30 marks

SECTION C Extended Writing

Aim to write 1 to 2 sides.

Credit will be given for: good vocabulary

variety and originality of ideas and expression

accurate spelling, punctuation and paragraphing

Write a **description (NOT a story)** suggested by the title **The Classroom**.

30 marks

Paper Total 80 marks