STREATHAM & CLAPHAM HIGH SCHOOL

ENGLISH SPECIMEN PAPER FOR 11+ ENTRY

Name .....

ENGLISH

Time: 1 ¼ hours **Specimen paper**

THE PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE SECTIONS

SECTION A : Reading & Comprehension (35 marks)

SECTION B : Writing (35 marks)

SECTION C : Précis Paper (30 marks)

- You must answer **all three** sections.
- Spend **5** minutes reading the passage in Section A.
- Spend **30** minutes answering the questions in Section A.
- Spend **25** minutes on Section B.
- Spend **15** minutes on Section C

SECTION A – Reading & Comprehension (35 marks)

Read the passage that follows and then write your answers on this question paper. Answer all the questions in this section.

Extract from *Silas Marner* by George Eliot.

A few weeks ago, Silas Marner, a poor, old man, had his savings stolen. Night after night, he looks out of his back door hoping to discover that somehow his gold coins have been returned to him. The passage begins just after he goes back into his cottage.

Turning towards the hearth, where the two logs had fallen apart, and sent forth only a red uncertain glimmer, he seated himself on his fireside chair, and was stooping to push his logs together, when, to his blurred vision, it seemed as if there were gold on the floor in front of the hearth. Gold! - his own gold - brought back to him as mysteriously as it had been taken away! He felt his heart begin to beat violently, and for a few moments he was unable to stretch out his hand and grasp the restored treasure. The heap of gold seemed to glow and get larger beneath his agitated gaze. He leaned forward at last, and stretched forth his hand; but instead of the hard coin with the familiar resisting outline, his fingers encountered soft warm curls. In utter amazement, Silas fell on his knees and bent his head low to examine the marvel: it was a sleeping child - a round, fair thing, with soft yellow rings all over its head. Could this be his little sister come back to him in a dream – his little sister whom he had carried about in his arms for a year before she died, when he was a small boy without shoes or stockings? That was the first thought that darted across Silas's blank wonderment. Was it a dream? He rose to his feet again, pushed his logs together, and, throwing on some dried leaves and

sticks, raised a flame; but the flame did not disperse the vision – it only lit up more distinctly the little round form of the child, and its shabby clothing.

[…]

But there was a cry on the hearth: the child had awaked, and Marner stooped to lift it on his knee. It clung round his neck, and burst louder and louder into that mingling of inarticulate cries with "mammy" by which little children express the bewilderment of waking. Silas pressed it to him, and almost unconsciously uttered sounds of hushing tenderness, while he bethought himself that some of his porridge, which had got cool by the dying fire, would do to feed the child with if it were only warmed up a little.

[…]

He had plenty to do through the next hour. The porridge, sweetened with some dry brown sugar from an old store which he had refrained from using for himself, stopped the cries of the little one, and made her lift her blue eyes with a wide quiet gaze at Silas, as he put the spoon into her mouth. Presently she slipped from his knee and began to toddle about, but with a pretty stagger that made Silas jump up and follow her lest she should fall against anything that would hurt her. But she only fell in a sitting posture on the ground, and began to pull at her boots, looking up at him with a crying face as if the boots hurt her. He took her on his knee again, but it was some time before it occurred to Silas's dull bachelor mind that the wet boots were the grievance, pressing on her warm ankles. He got them off with difficulty, and baby was at once happily occupied with the primary mystery of her own toes, inviting Silas, with much chuckling, to consider the mystery too.

1. Put the following sentences in the order in which they occur in the passage:
(Number 1 has been done for you)

The child wakes up ……

Silas Marner thinks he is dreaming ……

Silas looks after the girl ……..

Silas Marner finds something …….**1**….

Silas Marner realises that it is a little girl …….....

(4 marks)

2. Explain the following words as used in the passage:

blurred (line 4) ……

agitated (line 10) ……

marvel (line 14) ……

disperse (line 22) ……

bewilderment (line 30) ……

(5 marks)

3. Re-read the beginning of the passage up to line 14. Why does Silas Marner think that his gold has 'been brought back mysteriously to him'?

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(4 marks)

4. Look at lines 5-10. How does the reader know that Silas Marner is excited by what he finds?

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(3 marks)

5. Look again at lines 15-18. Who does Silas Marner think the child is at first?

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(2 marks)

6. Look again at lines 40-52. Explain in your own words what is meant by 'the primary mystery of her own toes'.

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(2 marks)

7. Look carefully at lines 32-50. Describe your impression of Silas Marner. Write as fully as you can, and support your answer with reference to words and phrases in the extract.

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(5 marks)

Please Turn Over

8. What parts of speech **as used by the writer in the passage** are the following words? The first one has been done for you.

shabby

Noun verb adjective preposition

Adverb pronoun conjunction

stagger

Noun verb adjective preposition

Adverb pronoun conjunction

vision

Noun verb adjective preposition

Adverb pronoun conjunction

violently

Noun verb adjective preposition

Adverb pronoun conjunction

restored

Noun verb adjective preposition

Adverb pronoun conjunction

(4 marks)

9. Continue this story in your own words. Think about the language used and try to continue in the same style.

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(6 marks)

END OF SECTION A

SECTION B – Writing (35 marks) 25 minutes

Take care in choosing and planning your response.

The quality of your writing is more important than its length.

You should choose **ONE** of the following questions to answer.

1. Write about a time either when you lost or found something.

2. Write the opening of a short story with the title, 'The Mysterious Little Girl'.

3. Write about getting lost. Use your imagination.

4. 'It is dangerous for children to play outside'. Argue for or against this statement.

5. Have you ever read a book that surprised you? Write a review for the book aimed at children of your own age.

Question.....

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END OF SECTION B

SECTION C – Précis Exercise (30 marks) 15 minutes

Read the passage carefully and then answer (a) and (b)

John disliked school for various reasons. He disliked getting up in the morning even in the holidays, and when the alarm went and he peeped from under the bed-clothes on a raw autumn morning, he hated the whole idea of an early start. He hated too putting on that dowdy uniform, with the absurd little cap perched on his fine, long hair. When he had entered the gates, he revolted against being told not to play football in the quadrangle, not to drop litter, not to chew, not to smoke. In the school assembly, he hated listening for hours to the headmaster's sermons and announcements, and to the exhortations to work harder or behave politely on the buses, or get his hair cut. He hated being bored by academic subjects like History or German, being forced to listen for long double periods to dull lessons, and then punished for yawning or for carving his name on the desk. On the rugby field he felt cold and confused, and he could not see why he should be forced to join in a game that he found brutal and dirty. Finally, he hated prefects who ordered him about, and put him in detention or gave him lines, and turned him out of the building during the lunch hours.

(a) Find and list seven main features of school life that John dislikes.
Write your answers using short **notes.**
You do **not** need to use your own words.

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7 marks

Cont/

(b) Now, using your notes, write a summary of what the passage tells you about John's dislike of school life.

Your summary should include all 7 points in (a).

You must use continuous writing **(not** note form).

Use your own words, and make your answer as short as possible.

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23 marks

END OF EXAMINATION

END OF ENGLISH EXAMINATION PAPER