WOLDINGHAM SCHOOL

Entrance Examination

11+ Entry 2016

English

Name: _____

Current School: _____

- 45 minutes allowed
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed

For official use only	
Mark **/ 35**	**Comment:**
Percentage **…… %**	
Please return by ……	**……..**

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

This extract is from a short story by Doris Lessing. It is about a 14-year-old girl who chooses a puppy against the wishes of her mother.

It was my father who decided we must have a dog, but choosing one turned out to be more difficult than we thought. After my mother had turned down a dozen puppies, we asked ourselves if any dog, anywhere in the world, could possibly be good enough. But, when we found it, this new puppy was to be my dog. I had decided this. And the fact was that I didn't want a good, **noble** and well-bred dog – the kind that my mother longed for. I didn't know what I did want, but the idea of such a dog bored me.

That summer we went to stay on an isolated farm with my father's friend, Mr Barnes. It was night when we arrived, and an almost full moon floated above the farm. The land around was black and silent, except for the small **incessant** noise of the crickets. The car drew up outside the farm and as the engine stopped there was the sound of a mad, wild yapping. Behold, around the corner of the house came a small black wriggling object that threw itself towards the car, changed course on almost touching it, and dashed off again. 'Take no notice of that puppy,' said Mr Barnes. 'It's been stark staring mad with the moon every night this last week.'

We went into the house and were fed and looked after. I was sent upstairs so that the grown-ups could talk freely. All the time came the mad high yapping. In my tiny bedroom I looked out onto the space between the house and the farm buildings, and there hurtled the puppy, crazy with the joy of life, or moonlight, weaving back and forth, snapping at its own black shadow – like a drunken moth around a candle-flame, or like … like nothing I've ever seen or heard of since.

That, of course, was my puppy. Mr Barnes came out of the house saying, 'Come now, you lunatic animal… ', almost throwing himself on the crazy creature, which was yapping and flapping around like a fish as he carried it to its kennel. I was already saying, like an **anguished** mother watching a stranger handle her child: 'Careful now, careful, that's my dog.'

Next day, after breakfast, I went to announce my decision. My mother at once said: 'Oh no, not that puppy. We'll never be able to train him.' Mr Barnes said I could have him with pleasure. My father said he didn't see anything wrong with the dog, if a dog was healthy that was all that mattered: my mother sighed and sat silent. The atmosphere of adults disagreeing with each other was familiar to me. I didn't say a word. I simply knew that things would work themselves out, and the puppy would be mine. Was right on my side? It was. Should anybody but myself choose my dog? No. Very well then, I had chosen. I chose this dog. I chose it. Too late, I had chosen it.

Three days and three nights we spent at the Barnes' place. On the last night of our stay I crept out in the cold moonlight to sit and watch the tiny, black, hurtling puppy. When I finally went to my bed, I fell asleep dreaming of the little dog with brown, buttony, beautiful eyes, and I knew I couldn't leave him behind.

We took him away next morning. It was a long drive home and all the way the puppy yawned and wriggled on my lap, then lay on its fat back, its four paws sprawled every-which-way. My father demanded **irritably** that the dog should be 'thoroughly trained', and I answered 'yes', only half hearing him. My head ran in circles like the puppy's own wild movements, dizzy with a mixture of joy and alarm. This was my dog. My responsibility.

Questions

Please answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. What narrative voice is the text written in? First person, second person, or third person?

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1 mark

2. What tense is the story written in?

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1 mark

3. Explain one impression you get of the girl's mother from paragraph 1.

You should use evidence (quotation) from this paragraph to support your point.

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2 marks

4. How does paragraph 2 build up to the introduction of the puppy?

You should use evidence (quotations) from the text to support your points.

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3 marks

5. In paragraph 3, the girl sees the puppy from her window.

Explain what the choice of language in the following quotation suggests about **the puppy's movements**: *"like a drunken moth around a candle-flame".*

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2 marks

6. *"like a drunken moth around a candle-flame"* is an example of a simile. Find another example of a simile used in paragraph 4 and explain its effect.

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3 marks

7. *'flapping'* is an example of onomatopoeia. Find one other example of onomatopoeia from paragraph 4.

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1 mark

8. Explain the meaning of the following words:

- Noble (line 5)

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- Incessant (line 9)

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- Anguished (line 24)

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- Irritably (line 40)

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4 marks

8. *"Was right on my side? It was. Should anybody but myself choose my dog? No. Very well then, I had chosen. I chose this dog. I chose it."*

Explain how the language choices and sentence structures used in this quotation show the attitude of the speaker.

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3 marks

9. Explain your impressions of the girl's character from this extract. You should comment on:

- her attitude towards her parents
- her attitude towards the puppy

You should use evidence (quotations) from the text to support your points.
You will be assessed on your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

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4 marks + 3 marks (SPaG)

10. Explain your impressions of the puppy from this extract. You should comment on:

- The actions of the puppy
- How other characters talk about the puppy
- How the puppy is described

You should use evidence (quotations) from the text to support your points.
You will be assessed on your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

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5 marks + 3 marks (SPaG)

Total marks for paper: 35 END OF TEST