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ENGLISH

SAMPLE PAPER

11+

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

BANCROFT'S SCHOOL
11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS
GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PARENTS

ENGLISH

Candidates will take an English test in two sections. There is no separate Scholarship paper.

Section A: Reading and Understanding (45 Minutes)

The children will be asked to read two or more passages in a reading booklet and then answer questions on what they have read in a separate answer book. There are a few questions, which call for longer answers. There will also be a few multiple-choice questions. The design of the answer book indicates the type of answer required.

Questions will test a variety of comprehension skills, such as the understanding of the vocabulary, sentence structure and inferred meaning.

Section B: Writing (5 Minutes planning + 15 Minutes writing)

The children will be given an essay title asking them to take some of the ideas from the extract or poem in the Reading Booklet and develop them into their own story or description.

Marks are earned by writing relevantly and showing originality and accuracy; punctuation, spelling and grammar are all important here. They are also awarded for how well the essay is organised and how interesting it is in content.

Preparation:

Children who are familiar with the format of the Key Stage Two tests should not need any preparation other than working through the two sample papers.

ENGLISH SAMPLE PAPER 1



Reading Booklet

Saturday Mornings

And

Plug In, Turn On, Look Out

This booklet contains two pieces of writing:

On pages 2 and 3 there is a passage about the place where a girl's father works.

Read this passage and then answer the questions in Part 1 of your answer book.

On page 4 you will find a poem about machines.

Read the poem and then answer the questions in Part 2 of your answer book.

Read the passage and answer the questions on it in your answer book.

Saturday Mornings

On Saturdays we get into the car with our father and drive down to the place where he works. It is actually the Zoology Building, but we don't call it that. It is just the building.

The building is enormous. Whenever we're there it's almost empty, because it's Saturday; this makes it seem even larger. It's of dark-brown weathered brick, and gives the impression of having turrets, although it has none. Ivy grows on it, leafless now in winter, covering it with skeletal veining. Inside it there are long hallways with hardwood floors, stained and worn from generations of students in slushy winter boots, but still kept polished.

In one room is a cement pool filled with thick-looking greenish water in which large turtles sit and blink or clamber ponderously up onto the rocks provided for them, hissing if we get too close.

We don't find any of the things in the building repulsive. The general arrangements, though not the details, are familiar to us, though we've never seen so many mice in one place before and are awed by their numbers and stench.

Some of the upstairs rooms are labs. The labs have vast ceilings and blackboards across the front. They contain rows and rows of large dark desks, more like tables than desks, with high stools to sit on. Each desk has two lamps with green glass shades, and two microscopes, old microscopes, with heavy thin tubing and brass fittings.

We've seen microscopes before, but not at such length; we can spend a lot of time with them before getting tired of them. Sometimes we're given slides to look at: butterfly wings, cross-sections of earthworms, flatworms stained with pink and purple dyes so you can see the different parts. Or we pull hairs out of our heads to look at them, hard and shiny like the bristles that grow out of the hard skins of insects, with the hair roots at the end like tiny onion bulbs.

We look at earwax, or snot, or dirt from our toes, checking first to see that there's no one around: we know without asking that such things would not be approved of. Our curiosity is supposed to have limits, though these have never been defined exactly.

It's from the building that we watch our first Santa Claus Parade.

We've never seen a parade before. Some people climb up onto the horse statues to get a better view. We don't have to do this as we can sit on the window-ledge of one of the main labs in the building, separated from the weather by a pane of dusty glass, with blasts of heat from the iron radiator going up our legs.

From there we watch as people dressed like snowflakes, like elves, like rabbits, like sugar plum fairies, march past us, strangely truncated because we're looking down on them. There are bands of bagpipers in kilts, and things like big cakes, with people on them waving, that slide past on wheels. It's begun to drizzle. Everyone down there looks cold.

Santa Claus is at the end, smaller than expected. His voice and his loudspeaker jinglebells are muted by the dusty glass; he rocks back and forth behind his mechanical reindeer, looking soggy, blowing kisses to the crowd.

I know he isn't the real Santa Claus, just someone dressed up like him. Still, my idea of Santa Claus has altered, has acquired a new dimension. After this it becomes hard for me to think of him without thinking also of the snakes and the turtles and the pickled eyes, and the lizards floating in their yellow jars, and of the vast, echoing, spicy, ancient and forlorn but also comforting smell of old wood, furniture polish, formaldehyde and distant mice.

Read the poem and then answer the questions on it in your answer booklet.

Plug In, Turn On, Look Out

Run for your lives, take to the hills,
The machines are on the march:
This morning my electric razor launched
A vicious and unwarranted attack on me –
It came at me, snarling through its
Thirty-four rotary teeth and
Flicking its flexy tail
(Fortunately I fought it off
With my dad's old cut-throat*).
Do not tum your back on toasters,
The machines are taking over:
The talking weighing machines at Waterloo
Told me today in no uncertain terms,
Where I could stick my threepence -
I was trapped in the lift doors twice today,
Don't tell me it's coincidence;
So steer clear of vacuum cleaners, it's
The Mechanical Revolution:
I turned the telly on tonight and it
Turned itself off again …
If necessary, we must resort to
Underhand tactics –
Keep your electric lawnmower securely tethered*,
Cut down supplies of food to your refrigerator,
Kick your car at regular intervals
(That's why the Lord gave you legs).
And above all, don't let them find out
Who's winning …

Meanwhile, I intend to lead
A picked band of desperadoes*
In a death-or-glory attack
On the I.C.T. Computer Installation
(We must destroy
The brains behind this uprising).

* Cut-throat – an old-fashioned razor; tethered – tied up; desperadoes – criminals who will risk anything in a fight.



Bancroft's School

Sample Entrance Examination

Section A

Reading And Understanding

First Name …….

Last Name …….

School ……..…

Mark ……..

In this answer book there are different types of questions.

The space for your answer shows you how you need to answer each question.

For some questions you must write only one word or phrase.

Other questions need longer answers in one or more sentences.

A few questions ask you to write at greater length.

Work through the booklet until you are told to stop.

Try to answer all the questions.

Write neatly.

You have 45 minutes for this test.

If you finish within the allocated time, go back and check your answers.

A new answer booklet will be issued for the Writing, Section B.

Part 1

These questions refer to the passage called *Saturday Mornings* which is on pages 2 and 3 of your reading booklet.
The narrator is the girl who is telling the story.
You should spend about half an hour on this section.

1. At what time of year is this passage set?

   ……. (1)

2. Using your own words, write down two things you learn from lines 4-10 about the appearance of the building.

   …….

   …….

   ……. (2)

3. Which of the following phrases is closest in meaning to "clamber ponderously" (line 13)? Tick one.

   Jump down _____

   Walk around thoughtfully _____

   Scramble awkwardly _____

   Stand threateningly _____ (1)

4. According to the fourth paragraph, how do the children feel towards the things they find in the building? Use your own words.

……

……

…… (2)

5. What is meant by "Our curiosity is supposed to have limits, though these have never been defined exactly" (lines 32-33)?

……

……

…… (2)

6. Why don't the children have to "climb up onto the horse statues" to watch the Santa Claus parade?

……

…… (1)

7. Which of the following phrases is closest in meaning to "strangely truncated" (line 41)? Tick one.

Bizarrely shortened _____

Oddly silenced _____

Artificially still _____

Beautifully bright _____ (1)

8. What do the following sentences suggest about the narrator's feelings towards the spectators on the street: "It's begun to drizzle. Everyone down there looks cold" (line 44)?

……..……

……..……

…… (4)

9. Give one word of your own for "muted". (line 46)

……..…… (1)

10. According to lines 45-48, how does the narrator feel about Santa Claus when he appears?

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…… (4)

11. What is meant by "has acquired a new dimension" (line 50)?

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…… (2)

12. Look at lines 53-55, from: "vast, echoing, spicy…" to the end of the sentence. What do they tell you about the narrator's feelings towards the building?

……

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…… (4)

Part 2

These questions are about the poem *Plug In, Turn On, Look Out* on page 4 of your reading booklet. You should spend about 15 minutes on this section.

13. Why are the readers being advised, "Run for your lives"?

……..…..…… (1)

14. Write down a word of your own which means the same as "unwarranted". (line 4)

……..…..…… (1)

15. What impression is created of the electric razor in lines 5-7?

……..…..……

……..…..……

……..…..……

……..…..…… (4)

16. What sort of personality do the talking weighing machines seem to have?

……

……

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…… (2)

17. Which of the following is closest in meaning to "underhand tactics" (line 22)? Tick one.

Armed warfare _____

Open battle _____

Cheating methods _____

Official policing _____ (1)

18. What does the speaker in the poem intend to do whilst his listeners fight off the machines? Use your own words.

……

……

…… (2)

19. Do you think that this is a nonsense poem, or that there is a serious message behind it? Give reasons for your answer.

……..……

……..……

……..…… (4)



Bancroft's School

Sample Entrance Examination

Section B

Writing

First Name .....

Last Name .....

School .....

Mark

You have 5 minutes to make notes and plan your writing. Do this in the planning box below. You then have 15 minutes to complete your writing.

You will be awarded marks for organising your writing well and making the essay interesting.

Be careful with spelling, punctuation and paragraphing: you will earn more marks if your writing is accurate.

Use all of the time allowed.

Do not begin your essay until you are told to do so.

Imagine you are one of the machines/gadgets mentioned in the poem. Write about why you are rebelling against the human race and how it feels.

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Put your hand up if you need more paper.