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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 2



Reading Booklet

Outdoor Games

And

I Told A Lie Today

This booklet contains two pieces of writing:

On pages 1, 2 & 3 there is a passage about Outdoor Games.

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

On page 4 you will find a poem called I Told A Lie Today.

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

Outdoor Games

It was still too hot to play outdoors. They had had their tea, they had been washed and had their hair brushed, and after the long day of confinement in the house that was not cool but at least a protection from the sun, the children strained to get out. Their faces were red and bloated with the effort, but their mother would not open the door. Everything was still curtained and shuttered in a way that stifled the children, made them feel that their lungs were stuffed with cotton wool and their noses with dust and if they didn't burst out into the light and see the sun and feel the air, they would choke.

At last, they faced the afternoon outside. It was too hot. Too bright. The white walls of the veranda glared stridently in the sun. No life stirred at this dry time of day – the birds still drooped, like dead fruit, in the papery tents of the trees; some squirrels lay limp on the wet earth under the garden tap. The dog lay stretched as if dead on the veranda mat, his paws and ears and tail all reaching out like dying travellers in search of water. He rolled his eyes at the children and attempted to lift his tail in a wag but could not. It only twitched and lay still.

The children felt released. They began tumbling, shoving, pushing against each other, frantic to start. Start what? Start their business. The business of the children's day which is – play.

"Let's play hide-and-seek."

"Who'll be It?"

"You be It."

"Why should I? You be -"

"You're the eldest –"

"That doesn't mean –"

The shoves became harder. Some kicked out. The motherly Mira stepped in. She pulled the boys roughly apart. There was a tearing sound of cloth but it was lost in the heavy panting and angry grumbling and no one paid attention to the small sleeve hanging loosely off a shoulder.

"Make a circle, make a circle!" she shouted, firmly pulling and pushing till a kind of vague circle was formed. "Now clap!" she roared and, clapping, they all chanted: "Dip, dip, dip – my blue ship –" and every now and then one or the other saw he was safe by the way his hands fell at the crucial moment – palm on palm, or back of hand on palm – and dropped out of the circle with a yell and a jump of relief and jubilation.

Raghu was It. He started to protest, to cry, "You cheated – Mira cheated – Anu cheated –" but it was too late, the others had all already streaked away. There was noone to hear when he called out, "Only in the veranda -the porch – Ma said – Ma *said* to stay in the porch!" No one had stopped to listen, all he saw were their brown legs flashing through the dusty shrubs, scrambling up brick walls, leaping over compost heaps and hedges, and then the porch stood empty in the shade and the garden was as empty as before; even the limp squirrels had whisked away, leaving everything gleaming, brassy and bare.

Only small Manu suddenly reappeared, as if he had dropped out of an invisible cloud or from a bird's claws, and stood for a moment in the centre of the yellow lawn, chewing his finger and near to tears as he heard Raghu shouting, with his head pressed against the veranda wall, "Eighty-three, eighty-five, eighty-nine, ninety ..." and then made off in a panic, half of him wanting to fly north, the other

half advising south. Raghu turned just in time to see the flash of his white shorts and the uncertain skittering of his red sandals, and charged after him with such a blood-curdling yell that Manu stumbled over the hosepipe, fell into its rubber coils and lay there weeping, "I won't be It-you have to find them all – all – All!"

"I know I have to, idiot," Raghu said, casually kicking him with his toe. "You're dead," he said with satisfaction, licking the beads of perspiration off his upper lip, and then stalked off in search of worthier prey, whistling spiritedly so that the hiders should hear and tremble.

Ravi heard the whistling and panicked. He felt himself too exposed, sitting on an upturned flower pot behind the garage. Where could he burrow? He could run around the garage if he heard Raghu come – around and around and around -but he hadn't much faith in his short legs when matched against Raghu's long, hefty, hairy footballer legs. Ravi had a frightening glimpse of them as Raghu combed the hedge, trampling delicate ferns underfoot as he did so. Ravi looked about him desperately, swallowing hard in fear.

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

I Told a Lie Today

I told a lie today
and it curled up inside me
like a steel hard spring.

It was quite a clever lie,
no one guessed the truth,
they believed me.

But I've carried the twist of it
at the centre of my body, all day,
and I think it's expanding,
filling me up,
making my eyes feel red.

Perhaps it's going to uncoil suddenly
and burst me open,
showing everyone what I'm really like.

I think I had better confess,
before I'm completely unwound.



Bancroft'sSchool

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 section.

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 *Outdoor Games* which is on pages 2 and 3 of your reading booklet.
You should spend about 20 minutes on this section.

1. What do the children want to do at the beginning of the extract?

   ……

   …… (1)

2. Using your own words, write down two things which are making the children feel uncomfortable.

   ……

   …… (2)

3. Which of the following phrases is closest in meaning to "glared stridently" (line 10)? Tick one.

   Stared aggressively _____

   Provided comforting shade _____

   Reflected very bright light _____

   Glowed threateningly _____ (1)

4. Write down two things which the animals are doing in this very hot weather. Use your own words.

……

…… (2)

5. What is meant by "Start their business. The business of the children's day which is – play"?

……

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…… (2)

6. What happens to one of the children's shirts when Mira stops the fight?

…… (1)

7. Which of the following phrases is closest in meaning to "crucial moment" (line -32)? Tick one.

First instant _____

Final second _____

Deciding point in time _____

Last move _____ (1)

8. Look at the paragraph starting: "Raghu was It." What does this paragraph suggest about the other children's feelings towards Raghu?

……

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…… (4)

9. Give one word of your own for "whisked". (Line - 41)

…… (1)

10. What sort of child does Manu seem to be?

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……. (4)

11. What is meant by "in search of worthier prey"? (Line - 54)

……

…… (2)

12. Look at the last paragraph. Do you think Ravi is enjoying the game of hide and seek? Why/why not?

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…… (4)

Part 2

These questions are about the poem *I Told a Lie Today* on page 4 of your reading booklet. You should spend about 10 minutes on this section.

13. Look at the first three lines of the poem. How do you think the lie is making the speaker feel?

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……

……

…… (2)

14. Why does the speaker describe the lie as "clever"? Use <u>your own words.</u>

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…… (1)

15. What do you think the speaker means by the word "twist" in line 7?

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……..……..……..……..… (2)

16. What is the lie doing to the speaker in lines 9-11? Use your own words?

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……..……..……..……..… (2)

17. Write down two things which you think the poet might mean by the phrase "completely unwound".

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……..……..……..……..… (4)

18. How do you think the speaker might answer the question, "What are you really like?"

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……..……..……..……..… (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 the time allowed.

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

Imagine you are one of the unnamed children in the extract. Describe the place where you choose to hide and your feelings as you hear Raghu looking for you.

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Put your hand up if you need more paper.