CITY OF LONDON
FREEMEN'S SCHOOL

SAMPLE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION PAPER

For pupils currently in Year 6

ENGLISH

Name:	Age:	Year:

Time allowed: 60 minutes

Instructions:

1. Answer **all** the questions in Section **A**.
2. Answer **ONE** question from Section **B**.
3. You will be given marks for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4. You have 60 minutes for the exam. Spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.

Section A	
Section B	
Total	

SSH	**S1014**	ENG

Section A

Read the extract 'A Study in Scarlet' and then answer all of the questions.



This is an extract from the first Sherlock Holmes novel, *A study in scarlet*, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It was first published in 1887 and is narrated by Dr. Watson. This is the first time Dr. Watson has met Holmes, and they are introduced by Mr. Stamford.

This was a lofty chamber, lined and littered with countless bottles. Broad, low tables were scattered about, which bristled with retorts, test-tubes, and little Bunsen lamps, with their blue flickering flames. There was only one student in the room, who was bending over a distant table absorbed in his work. At the sound of our steps he glanced round and sprang to his feet with a cry of pleasure. "I've found it! I've found it," he shouted to my companion, running towards us with a test-tube in his hand. "I have found a re-agent which is precipitated by haemoglobin, and by nothing else." Had he discovered a gold mine, greater delight could not have shone upon his features.

"Dr. Watson, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," said Stamford, introducing us.

"How are you?" he said cordially, gripping my hand with a strength for which I should hardly have given him credit. "You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive."

"How on earth did you know that?" I asked in astonishment.

"Never mind," said he, chuckling to himself. "The question now is about haemoglobin. No doubt you see the significance of this discovery of mine?"

"It is interesting, chemically, no doubt," I answered, "but practically …"

"Why, man, it is the most practical medico-legal discovery for years. Don't you see that it gives us an infallible test for blood stains. Come over here now!" He seized me by the coat-sleeve in his eagerness, and drew me over to the table at which he had been working. "Let us have some fresh blood," he said, digging a long bodkin into his finger, and drawing off the resulting drop of blood in a chemical pipette. "Now, I add this small quantity of blood to a litre

of water. You perceive that the resulting mixture has the appearance of pure water. The proportion of blood cannot be more than one in a million. I have no doubt, however, that we shall be able to obtain the characteristic reaction." As he spoke, he threw into the vessel a few white crystals, and then added some drops of a transparent fluid. In an instant the contents assumed a dull mahogany colour, and a brownish dust was precipitated to the bottom of the glass jar.

"Ha! ha!" he cried, clapping his hands, and looking as delighted as a child with a new toy. "What do you think of that?"

"It seems to be a very delicate test," I remarked.

"Beautiful! beautiful! The old Guiacum test was very clumsy and uncertain. So is the microscopic examination for blood corpuscles. The latter is valueless if the stains are a few hours old. Now, this appears to act as well whether the blood is old or new. Had this test been invented, there are hundreds of men now walking the earth who would long ago have paid the penalty of their crimes."

"Indeed!" I murmured.

"Criminal cases are continually hingeing upon that one point. A man is suspected of a crime months perhaps after it has been committed. His linen or clothes are examined, and brownish stains discovered upon them. Are they blood stains, or mud stains, or rust stains, or fruit stains, or what are they? That is a question which has puzzled many an expert, and why? Because there was no reliable test. Now we have the Sherlock Holmes' test, and there will no longer be any difficulty."

medico-legal = a combination of medical and legal evidence that can be used in law

infallible = something that cannot fail or be wrong

bodkin = a sharp instrument, a bit like a long pin

corpuscles = blood cells

Section A

1. Select one quotation that makes Mr Holmes seem to be a very clever man.

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[2 marks]

2. How does the author make the student seem excited in the first paragraph?

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[4 marks]

3. Why do you think the author uses the line, 'looking as delighted as a child with a new toy'? (paragraph 9)

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[4 marks]

4. Select one quotation from the story which suggests **delight**.

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[2 marks]

5. Select one quotation from the story which suggests **intrigue**.

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[2 marks]

6. Select one quotation from the story which suggests **impatience.**

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[2 marks]

7. Why is the moment described in the story such an important discovery?

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[4 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Select and answer one of the following tasks:

1. Write a description of a discovery you once made. It does not have to be a true story.

2. Write a newspaper story about a murder.

3. Write a story with the starting line: 'This was a lofty chamber, lined and littered with countless bottles.'

[20 marks]