City of London School

Specimen English Paper

Group 2

One hour

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.

Section A

Read the poem below, and then answer the questions which follow.

AT THE EDGE OF THE WOOD

First, boys out of school went out of their way home
To detonate the windows; at each smash
Piping with delight and skipping for fright
Of a ghost of an old man popping over his hedge,
Shrieking and nodding from the gate.
Then the game palled, since it was only breaking the silence.
The rain sluiced through the starred gaps,
Crept up walls into the brick; frost bit and munched;
Weeds craned in and leant on the doors.
Now it is a plot without trees let into the wood
Piled high with tangle and tousle
Buried parapets and roots picking at the last mortar
Though the chimney still stands sheathed in leaves
And you can see for the time being where in a nook
A briony burst its pot with a shower of roots
And back through the press of shrubs and stems
Deep-coils into the woods.

1. How do you think the boys detonated the windows? (3 Marks)

2. What sound is this action being compared to? (3 Marks)

3. What feelings did the boys have when they had done this? (4 Marks)

4. What do you think 'palled' means in line 6? (2 Marks)

5. What does the word 'sluiced' (line 7) suggest about the way the rain entered the building? (3 Marks)

6. What would the 'starred gaps' (line 7) be? (3 Marks)

7. What expressions suggest that nature is like a human being and is doing some damage to the building? (4 Marks)

8. What part of the building is still clearly standing? (2 Marks)
9. What expression suggests that the ruin of this building is going to get worse? (2 Marks)
10. Imagine you are one of the boys in the poem. Describe **in your own words** what happened on your way home from school. (Make sure you make use of the information contained in the poem.) Write about 100 words. (8 Marks)

Total Marks for Section A: 34 Marks.

Section B

1. *In this passage from 'The Wind in the Willows', there are 12 spelling mistakes. On your answer paper, write the numbers 1-12; then, write out next to the numbers the correct spellings of the words which you think are spelt incorrectly.*

'It was a cold stil afternoon with a hard steeley sky overhead, when he sliped out of the warm parler into the open air. The country lay bear and entirely leafles around him, and he thought that he had never scene sofar and so intimitley into the insides of things as on that winter day when Nature was deep in her annual slumber and seemed to have kiked the cloths off. He was glad that he liked the country undecorrated, hard , and stripped of its finery.

(Total marks for Qu. 1: 12 marks.)

2. *In this passage, there are 10 numbered places where punctuation marks have been either misused, deliberately omitted, or are not needed at all . On your answer paper, write out the numbers 1-10; then, write next to the numbers the code letter from the list below the passage which you think corresponds to the required punctuation mark or correction. If no punctuation mark is needed, write K.*

'There was the noise of a bolt shot back, and the door opened a few inches(1) enough to show a long snout and a pair of sleepy blinking eye's(2).

"Now, the *very* next time this happens, (3) said a gruff and suspicious voice (4) " I shall be exceedingly angry. Who is it *this* time, disturbing people on such a night(5) Speak up(6)"

"O (7) Badger," cried the Rat, let us in, please. Its (8) me (9) Rat, and my friend Mole, and we've lost our way in the snow."

"What, Ratty, my dear little man(10) exclaimed the Badger, in quite a different voice. "Come along in, both of you, at once. Why, you must be perished. Well I never! Lost in the snow! And in the Wild Wood too, and at this time of night!"'

A: full-stop;
B: comma;
C: question mark;
D: exclamation mark;
E: apostrophe needed;
F: colon;
G: semi-colon;
H: apostrophe wrongly used;
J: quotation marks;
K: no punctuation needed.

(Total marks for Qu. 2: 20 marks.)

Section C

In the passage which follows, Mr Mole is alone in the Wild Wood. Read the passage, and then answer the questions below.

There was nothing to alarm him at first entry. Twigs crackled under his feet, logs tripped him, funguses on stumps resembled caricatures, and startled him for the moment by their likeness to something familiar and far away; but that was all fun, and exciting. It led him on, and he penetrated to where the light was less, and trees crouched nearer and nearer, and holes made ugly mouths at him on either side.

Everything was very still now. The dusk advanced on him steadily, rapidly, gathering in behind and before; and the light seemed to be draining away like flood-water.

Then the faces began.

It was over his shoulder, and indistinctly, that he first thought he saw a face: a little evil wedge-shaped face, looking out at him from a hole. When he turned and confronted it, the thing had vanished.

He quickened his pace, telling himself cheerfully not to begin imagining things, or there would be simply no end to it. He passed another hole, and another, and another; and then – yes! – no! – yes! certainly a little narrow face, with hard eyes, had flashed up for an instant from a hole, and was gone. He hesitated – braced himself up for an effort and strode on. Then suddenly, and as if it had been so all the time, every hole, far and near, and there were hundreds of them, seemed to possess its face, coming and going rapidly, all fixing on him glances of malice and hatred: all hard-eyed and evil and sharp.

If he could only get away from the holes in the banks, he thought, there would be no more faces. He swung off the path and plunged into the untrodden places of the wood.

Then the whistling began.

Very faint and shrill it was, and far behind him, when first he heard it; but somehow it made him hurry forward. Then, still very faint and shrill, it sounded far ahead of him, and made him hesitate and want to go back. As he halted in indecision it broke out on either side, and seemed to be caught up and passed on throughout the whole length of the wood to its furthest limit. They were up and alert and ready, evidently, whoever they were! And he – he was alone, and unarmed, and far from any help; and the night was closing in.

Then the pattering began.

He thought it was only falling leaves at first, so slight and delicate was the sound of it. Then as it grew it took a regular rhythm, and he knew it for nothing else but the pat-pat-pat of little feet, still a very long way off. Was it in front or behind? It seemed to be first one, then the other, then both. It grew and it multiplied, till from every quarter as he listened anxiously, leaning this way and that, it seemed to be closing in on him. As he stood still to hearken, a rabbit came running hard towards him through the trees. He waited, expecting it to slacken pace, or to swerve from him into a different course. Instead, the animal almost brushed him as it dashed past, his face set and hard, his eyes staring. "Get out of this, you fool, get out!" the Mole heard him mutter as he swung round a stump and disappeared down a friendly burrow.

NOW TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE

AND ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.

1. How does Mole feel when he first enters the Wild Wood? (2 Marks)

2. State TWO of the things which Mole notices at first in the wood. (6 Marks)

3. Where, in the first paragraph, does the setting of the story become more sinister? (3 Marks)

4. There is a simile in the second paragraph - copy it out accurately. (2 Marks)

5. How many 'faces' does Mole see? (4 Marks)

6. Where are the faces located? (3 Marks)

7. Why does Mole turn off the path? (2 Marks)

8. What makes Mole 'hurry forward'? (2 Marks)

9. What makes Mole 'want to go back'? (2 Marks)

10. Who or What gives Mole a warning? (2 Marks)

11. In no more than 15 lines, explain why Mole is so *confused* by the end of the passage. (6 Marks)

Total Marks for Section C: 34 Marks.

NOW CHECK YOUR WORK