DULWICH COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1619

Year 7 Entrance and Scholarship Examination English

Specimen Paper C

TIME: 60 minutes plus 10 minutes' reading time

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

You have 10 minutes to read the passage and questions. Do not write or type anything during this time.

Pay careful attention to the number of marks available for each questions and think about how you are going to make the best use of your time.

Top Dog

The following passage tells the story of Buck, a much-loved dog living on an American farm during the late 19th century, at the start of the Gold Rush. Buck's life has so far been a happy one, but things are about to change…

paragraph 1 If Buck could have read the newspapers, he would have known that trouble was brewing, for dogs like him. Because men had found gold in the Arctic North. Those men wanted dogs, robust dogs, with muscles by which to toil, and with heavy coats to protect them from the frost.

paragraph 2 Buck lived at a big house in the sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley. Judge Miller's place, it was called. It stood back from the road, half-hidden among the trees, through which glimpses could be caught of the wide cool veranda that ran around its four sides. The house was approached by neatly-graveled driveways which wound through immaculate, wide-spreading lawns. At the back were the stables, where the grooms and boys worked, rows of servants' cottages, and long lines of grape-vines, green pastures, orchards, and berry patches. Then there was the big cement tank where Judge Miller's sons took their plunge in the hot afternoons.

paragraph 3 And over all this Buck ruled. Here he was born, and here he had lived the four years of his life. It was true, there were other dogs, but to him, they did not count. There was Toots, the Japanese pug, and Ysabel, the Mexican hairless. They were, to Buck, strange creatures that rarely put nose out of doors or set foot to ground. Then there were the fox terriers, twenty of them at least, who yelped excitedly at Toots and Ysabel looking out of the windows at them, protected by a legion of housemaids armed with brooms and mops.

paragraph 4 But Buck was neither house dog nor kennel dog. The whole realm was his. He plunged into the tank or went hunting with the Judge's sons; he accompanied Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughters, on long twilight or early morning walks; on wintry nights he lay at the Judge's feet before the roaring library fire; he carried the Judge's grandsons on his back, or rolled them in the grass, and guarded their footsteps through wild adventures down to the fountain in the stable yard, and even beyond, where the paddocks were, and the berry patches. Among the terriers he stalked imperiously, and Toots and Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king - king over all creeping, crawling, flying things of Judge Miller's place, humans included.

Please turn over

paragraph 5 And this was the manner of dog Buck was in the Autumn of 1897, when the Gold Rush dragged men from all the world into the frozen North. But Buck did not read the newspapers. And Buck little guessed that Manuel, one of the gardener's helpers, would sell him to one of those gold-diggers.

paragraph 6 The Judge was out at a meeting, and the boys were busy organizing an athletics club, on the night of Manuel's double treachery. No one saw him and Buck go off through the orchard at the back of the house, on what Buck imagined was merely a stroll. No-one saw them arrive at the little station known as College Park. A man met them, talked with Manuel, and money chinked between them. "You might wrap up the goods before you deliver them," the stranger said gruffly, and Manuel tied a piece of stout rope around Buck's neck under the collar. "Twist it, and you'll choke him," said Manuel, and the stranger grunted.

paragraph 7 Buck had accepted the rope with quiet dignity. It was not familiar to him, but he had learned to have faith in men he knew. However, when the ends of the rope were placed in the stranger's hands, he growled menacingly. Catching him unawares, the rope tightened around his neck, shutting off his breath. Outraged, he sprang at the man, who grappled him close by the throat, and with a deft twist threw him over on his back. Then the rope tightened mercilessly, while Buck struggled, his tongue lolling out of his mouth and his great chest panting futilely. Never in all his life had he been so vilely treated! But his strength ebbed, his eyes glazed, and he knew nothing when the train arrived and the two men threw him into the baggage car.

1. From the first paragraph, find <u>three</u> things which would make a dog suitable to take on an expedition to the North. You must use your own words, <u>not</u> those of the passage. (6 marks)

2. From the second paragraph, find and write down:

a) <u>Two</u> details which tell us that Judge Miller's place would be comfortable in hot weather. (4 marks)

b) <u>Two</u> details which tell us that the gardens of the house are well-looked-after. (4 marks)

3. Finding information from paragraphs three and four, explain in your own words what Buck thinks about the other dogs, and in what ways he sees himself as different from them. You should make four separate points. (8 marks)

4. We are told, in paragraph three, that Toots and Ysabel are protected by "a *legion* of housemaids *armed* with brooms and mops". Explain in your own words what the words "legion" and "armed" tell us about the housemaids. You should make three separate points.

(6 marks)

5. Explain the meanings of the following words <u>as they are used in the fourth paragraph.</u>

a. Realm

b. Twilight

c. Imperiously

d. Utterly

(8 marks)

6. Using information from paragraphs one to four, and your own imagination, write up to four paragraphs from Buck's point of view, describing part of an enjoyable afternoon at Judge Miller's place. Remember, you are writing as if you were Buck.

   There are 24 marks for this question, of which 8 are awarded for the accuracy of your written English (punctuation, grammar, use of English and spelling), and 16 are awarded for the inventiveness and sophistication of your descriptive writing.

You should start like this: *Having finished their lunch, the judge's grandsons called me, and we headed for the stable yard...*

(24 marks)

There is more space over the page.

7. Look again at paragraph five.

a) Explain why the writer reminds us that "Buck did not read the newspapers".

(2 marks)

b) Explain what this makes us feel about Buck.

(2 marks)

8. Explain in your own words the meaning of the phrase "Manuel's double treachery" (paragraph six).

(4 marks)

9. What phrase from paragraph six tells us that Buck did not, at first, suspect that anything frightening was happening to him?
(2 marks)

10. Look again at paragraph six. Find <u>three</u> details which suggest that Manuel has planned his actions carefully. (6 marks)

11. Explain in your own words what you think the stranger means when he says, in paragraph six: "You might wrap up the goods before you deliver them." (4 marks)

12. **Look again at the last paragraph. Explain <u>in your own words</u> what Buck feels, from the moment the rope is placed around his neck, to the moment he is thrown into the baggage car. You should make <u>five</u> separate points.**

(10 marks)

END OF EXAMINATION