EMANUEL SCHOOL

11+ English Entrance Examination

January 2010

1 hour

Name:_____

Primary School:_____

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the passage in Section A and answer **all** the questions as fully as possible.
- Then choose **one** of the writing tasks in Section B.
- You are told the number of marks available for each question.
- Check through your work carefully at the end of the exam.

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

Spend up to 30 minutes on this section.

Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

The following extract is from a novel set in the Blitz – a time during World War Two when London was being bombed every night by German aeroplanes. It describes what happened to Bill and Julie when they ignored the air raid warnings, and crossed a bridge over the Thames when the bombs were coming down at night.

We had nearly reached the second bay on the bridge when there was a tremendous bang on our left somewhere. Seconds later the air hardened into a wall, struck us, and lifted us, threw us against the fencing on the girders, and held us there. Somehow in the same split second, reacting to the pain in my ears, remembering something I knew, I thrust the fingers of my left hand between my own lips, and those of my right hand into Julie's mouth. Turning her head, she tried to drag my hand away. I held onto her, fingers hooked over her teeth, while the air pressed down on us, held us spread-eagled, and crushed the breath out of us. Then we were being showered with specks of grit, which scratched our faces, and forced their way into our closed eyes; then the blast wave passed by, and the air dropped us, let us go, so that **we slithered to the ground**. On hands and knees we dragged ourselves into the shelter of the parapet where it curved away from the line of the railway, making a small balcony over the river. And there we stayed. I was terrified. Not quaking with fear, but tingling with it – it was a prickling sensation on the skin, like having a high temperature. And although it was a cold night, with frost in the air, I was sweating. Yet I remember working it out quite coolly in my head; it was dangerous to stay where we were, but on balance more dangerous to move on.

Julie wriggled herself up close to the foot of the wall, and lay quite still, face turned sky upwards. We didn't say anything at all for a long time. We could hear a lot of noise; explosions, gunfire, and, nearer to us, shrapnel winding down from the sky, making a funny sound like a gurgle with a whistle in it. After a little she said, "You hurt my mouth."

" If you don't keep your mouth open, the blast bursts your ears, I think," I said.

"Oh, yes," she said. "I remember something about keeping a cork between one's teeth. Thanks, then." Then, a lot later, "Bill why isn't it dark? I wish it were dark!"

Very cautiously, I got up, and put my head over the parapet. I remember hearing my own voice, saving very slowly and clearly, "God in Heaven…look at that!"

She moved. She looked too. Below us the water of the river was a sheet of orange and gold. The eastern sky, as in a monstrous sunrise, was an expanse of limpid golden light, as though the sky itself was a wall of fire. Against it we could see the slender spires of Wren's churches, and the great dome of St. Paul's. They were not mere silhouettes; the corners, the columns, the curve of the dome had been traced in lines of reflected light, as though they had been drawn with a pencil of flame. London was burning. It was all on fire. **The immensity of it quenched my own fear in a wave of awe**; it seemed like the end of the world.

Answer all the questions in the spaces provided
IN YOUR OWN WORDS,
IN FULL SENTENCES.

QUESTIONS

1. Explain, **in your own words**, why Bill shoved his fingers into his and Julie's mouths when there was an explosion. (2 marks)

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2. Describe, **in your own words**, the **four** main things that the bomb blast does to Bill and Julie before they 'slithered to the ground'. (4 marks)

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3. Describe, **in your own words**, **two** physical effects that fear has on Bill's body. (2 marks)

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4. Find a phrase from the first paragraph which shows us that Bill was able to keep calm in an emergency.
a) Write it out here. (1 mark)

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b) Explain, **in a sentence**, **in your own words**, why you think it shows this. (2 marks)

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5. Why isn't it dark, even though it's late at night? (1 mark)

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6. From what Bill says in the final paragraph, describe as precisely as you can, **in your own words**,

a) the appearance of the sky and the river just after the bombing raid. (3 marks)

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b) the appearance of London's buildings just after the bombing raid. (3 marks)

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7. Explain **in your own words, in a full sentence,** what Bill means when he says: ***"The immensity of it quenched my own fear in a wave of awe…".***

(2 marks)

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8. Write out the following extract with the correct punctuation and spelling:

I dont remember very well how long we wandered around eventually we where found by a warden, who took us too a shelter witch was full off people like us. Their were small children and babys crying, and mother's trying to comfort them

(5 marks)

[25 marks in total]

Please turn over for Section B.

Section B: CREATIVE WRITING

Spend about 30 minutes on this section.

Choose ONE of the following to write about. Pay close attention to your spelling, punctuation and grammar. Use the lines printed on the exam paper for your writing.

EITHER

1) "The Fire"

Write a story with this as your title. Concentrate on describing a fire and its effects, and the thoughts and feelings of the people involved, so that it is convincing for your reader.

OR

2) Write a story about an occasion when you had to be responsible for some one else.

This story could be imaginary, or based on a true event, but you need to make your writing vivid and convincing for your reader.

[25 marks in total]

☐ ←**Please put the number for the story you've chosen to do here.**
