EMANUEL SCHOOL

Year 7 examination

Name:_____

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.

GOOD LUCK!

Section A

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

Jules Verne's novel 'From the Earth to the Moon' was published in 1865. Verne was one of the first science fiction writers and here he describes the scene when a rocket is launched into space for a mission to the Moon.

The first of December had arrived - a fatal day, for if the rocket did not depart that very night, at 46 minutes and 40 seconds past 10 o'clock in the evening, another eighteen years would have to roll by before the moon would once again appear at the same position in the heavens.

The weather was magnificent; despite the onset of winter, the sun shone brightly, and its radiant light bathed the Earth, which three of its inhabitants were about to abandon for a new world.

Until nightfall, a hushed, muffled shiver, such as precedes great catastrophes, went running through the anxious crowd who had gathered to watch the spectacle. An indescribable uneasiness, an indefinable feeling oppressed every soul. Each of them was wishing that "it was all over". However, about seven o'clock the silence suddenly broke. The Moon rose above the horizon. Several million hurrahs saluted her. She was precisely on time for her appointment. The shouts rose to the heavens, cheers burst out on every side, as the pale goddess shone silently into a clear sky and caressed the crowd with her silvery rays.

Then it was ten o'clock. The moment had arrived for them to take their places in the rocket; making the descent into the barrel, attaching the sealing plate and then disengaging the cranes and scaffolding from the Columbiad all took some time. The moment for goodbyes had arrived. A few moments later, the three travelling companions installed themselves in the rocket and screwed down the sealing plate from the inside.

Who could describe the emotions of all those assembled there? The moon ascended through a heaven of the purest clarity, outshining the twinkling fires of the stars as she passed; she crossed the constellation of Gemini and was now nearing the halfway point between the horizon and the zenith. A terrible silence weighed upon the entire scene. Not a breath of wind on Earth. Not a breath from the lungs of the spectators. Their hearts dared not beat. All eyes were fixed upon the rocket.

And then, *FIRE!* An almighty explosion, unbelievable, unearthly, indescribable - not even by comparison with a thunder clap or erupting volcano - instantly followed. An immense spout of fire shot out from the bowels of the earth like lava. The earth heaved up and just a few spectators snatched a glimpse of the rocket slicing through the air in a cloud of fiery vapours.

Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. Write down the time and date when the rocket is scheduled to take off. [2]

_____

2. In your own words explain why you think there might be another eighteen years to wait if the rocket does not take off that night. [2]

_____

_____

3. How many men are attempting to reach the Moon? [1]

_____

_____

4. From paragraph 3, write down two phrases which show how nervous and excited the crowd was. [2]

i_____

_____

ii_____

_____

5. Explain why you think one of the phrases which you wrote down for Question 4 is effective. [2]

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. Look again at paragraph 4. In your own words, explain the three things the men have to do to prepare for take off. [2]

7. In paragraphs 5 and 6, how does Jules Verne create a tense and exciting atmosphere? [3 marks]

Write about:

- the way he describes the crowd;
- the description of the launch.

8. Look again at the third paragraph. Choose a word which means the same as each of the following [4]:

goes before _____ event _____

anxiety _____ exactly _____

9. Write either a **full stop**, **question mark** or **exclamation mark** in the bracketed spaces below [3 marks]:

a) Wow ( ) Did you see the rocket take off ( )

b) How long will it take the rocket to get to the moon ( )

c) The launch took place in December ( )

10. Either a comma or full stop is missing from the following sentences. Insert the correct punctuation clearly in the right place [4 marks].

a) As the crowd watched a flash of fire appeared from underneath the rocket.

b) She looked at her watch it was ten o'clock.

c) The moon was high in the sky the stars twinkled in the darkness.

d) Climbing the steps to the rocket the man held his breath in anticipation.

END OF SECTION A TOTAL

MARKS AVAILABLE = 25

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SECTION B

Either

(a) Write the opening section of a story about another planet.

In your opening, you could try to:

- include description of character and setting
- create a feeling of excitement or tension
- leave your reader wondering what will happen next

You do not need to finish your story.

OR

(b) Continue the story from the last sentence of the passage:

The earth heaved up and just a few spectators snatched a glimpse of the rocket slicing through the air in a cloud of fiery vapours.

You do not need to write a full story.

[25]

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END OF EXAM - WELL DONE!