NAME	CANDIDATE NUMBER
CURRENT SCHOOL	

The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School

Elstree, Herts

11+ Entrance Examination 2013



ENGLISH

The English paper has **three** sections:-

- Comprehension – approx. 30 minutes
- Language – approx. 15 minutes
- Writing – approx. 30 minutes

The 2013 Comprehension and 2013 Writing Sections follow.

The 2013 Language Section is **not** included because it will vary considerably from year to year.

Section 1 – Comprehension

*This is an extract from Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens. Read the extract and then answer all the questions that follow. You **do not** have to answer in complete sentence*

Of all bad deeds that, under cover of the darkness, had been committed within wide London's bounds since night hung over it, that was the worst. Of all the horrors that rose with an ill scent upon the morning air, that was the foulest and most cruel.

The sun - the bright sun, that brings back, not light alone, but new life, and hope, and freshness to man - burst upon the crowded city in clear and radiant glory. Through costly-coloured glass and paper-mended window, through cathedral dome and rotten crevice, it shed its equal ray. It lighted up the room where the murdered woman lay. It did. He tried to shut it out, but it would stream in. If the sight had been a ghastly one in the dull morning, what was it, now, in all that brilliant light!

He had not moved; he had been afraid to stir. There had been a moan and motion of the hand; and, with terror added to rage, he had struck and struck again. Once he threw a rug over it; but it was worse to fancy the eyes, and imagine them moving towards him, than to see them glaring upward, as if watching the reflection of the pool of gore that quivered and danced in the sunlight on the ceiling. He had plucked it off again. And there was the body - mere flesh and blood, no more - but such flesh, and so much blood!

He struck a light, kindled a fire, and thrust the club into it. There was hair upon the end, which blazed and shrunk into a light cinder, and, caught by the air, whirled up the chimney. Even that frightened him, sturdy as he was; but he held the weapon till it broke, and then piled it on the coals to burn away, and smoulder into ashes. He washed himself, and rubbed his clothes; there were spots that would not be removed, but he cut the pieces out, and burnt them. How those stains were dispersed about the room! The very feet of the dog were bloody.

All this time he had, never once, turned his back upon the corpse; no, not for a moment. Such preparations completed, he moved, backward, towards the door: dragging the dog with him, lest he should soil his feet anew and carry out new evidences of the crime into the streets. He shut the door softly, locked it, took the key, and left the house.

He crossed over, and glanced up at the window, to be sure that nothing was visible from the outside. There was the curtain still drawn, which she would have opened to admit the light she never saw again. It lay nearly under there. *He* knew that. God, how the sun poured down upon the very spot!

The glance was instantaneous. It was a relief to have got free of the room. He whistled on the dog, and walked rapidly away.

He went through Islington; strode up the hill at Highgate on which stands the stone in honour of Whittington; turned down to Highgate Hill, unsteady of purpose, and uncertain where to go; struck off to the right again, almost as soon as he began to descend it; and taking the foot-path across the fields, skirted Caen Wood, and so came out on Hampstead Heath. Traversing the hollow by the Vale of Health, he mounted the opposite bank, and crossing the road which joins the villages of Hampstead and Highgate, made along the remaining portion of the heath to the fields at North End, in one of which he laid himself down under a hedge, and slept.

Soon he was up again, and away, - not far into the country, but back towards London by the high-road - then back again - then over another part of the same ground as he already

traversed - then wandering up and down in fields, and lying on ditches' brinks to rest, and starting up to make for some other spot, and do the same, and ramble on again.

Where could he go, that was near and not too public, to get some meat and drink? Hendon. That was a good place, not far off, and out of most people's way. Thither he directed his steps, - running sometimes, and sometimes, with a strange perversity, loitering at a snail's pace, or stopping altogether and idly breaking the hedges with his stick. But when he got there, all the people he met - the very children at the doors - seemed to view him with suspicion. Back he turned again, without the courage to purchase bit or drop, though he had tasted no food for many hours; and once more he lingered on the Heath, uncertain where to go.

He wandered over miles and miles of ground, and still came back to the old place. Morning and noon had passed, and the day was on the wane, and still he rambled to and fro, and up and down, and round and round, and still lingered about the same spot. At last he got away, and shaped his course for Hatfield.

1. Read paragraph 2 (lines 4 -9). What crime do you think has been committed?

   _____ [1]

2. What word in paragraph 2 shows how horrified he is by the crime committed?

   _____ [1]

3. What weapon is mentioned in paragraph 4?

   _____ [1]

4. What does he do with the weapon?

   _____ [1]

5. In line 12, we are told “it was worse to fancy the eyes”. What do you think the word ‘fancy’ means here?

   _____ [1]

6. In paragraph 5, what word tells us that he closes the door quietly?

   _____ [1]

7. Look closely at lines 16-22, apart from the club, how does he try to remove further evidence of the crime?

_____

_____

_____

_____ [4]

8. In your own words, what two reasons are given for dragging the dog out of the room?

_____

_____ [2]

9. Look closely at paragraph 6. Why do you think he looks back at the window of the house after he had left?

_____ [1]

10. In line 34, the writer mentions "the stone in honour of Whittington".

    Can you guess who Whittington was?

_____ [2]

11. What phrase in lines 45-52 of the extract tells the reader that he moves very slowly?

_____ [1]

12. Re-read paragraph 8. Where, precisely, does he go to sleep?

_____

_____ [2]

13. In your own words, why does he go to Hendon?

_____

_____ [2]

14. In line 51, what is meant by the phrase “bit and drop”?

a) Bit = _____ [1]

b) Drop = _____ [1]

15. In line 54, what do you think Dickens means by “the day was on the wane”?

_____

_____ [2]

16. From the whole extract, select and write down 3 quotations which suggests that he feels guilty about what has happened. Give an explanation of how each quotation shows his guilt.

_____

_____ [6]

	Quotation	Explanation
1		
2		
3		

Section 2 – Writing

Use the picture below as inspiration for a short piece of writing. This can be imaginative or descriptive. Please write no more than three paragraphs. You will be marked on your choice of vocabulary, your ability to use punctuation and correct spelling and the overall quality of your writing. Answers which are not linked to this picture will be penalised.

[30 Marks]



Section 2 – Writing