Kent College

11+ ENGLISH 2009
SAMPLE

Time Allowed: 1 HOUR

You should spend 35 minutes on section A
You should spend 25 minutes on section B

Marks will be awarded for intelligent and creative answers. Marks will also be given for accuracy in punctuation, spelling and correct sentence structuring. Please write in as much detail as you can and also write carefully.

Answer all the questions in Section A.
Answer ONE question from section B.

Name:
Result:
Comment:

Abigail Martin was good-natured and generous. Also, her father owned a chocolate factory so when it was time for the school camp, everyone wanted to be in her room. In the end, the teacher in charge had to draw lots. Natasha, Charlotte and Laura won. Natasha and Charlotte were extremely pleased but not about having to share with Laura, Natasha's little sister

On the first night, the girls had a midnight feast, Abigail sharing the sweets her father had given her with everyone along the corridor. For this, they were reprimanded and told by their teacher to settle down to sleep at once.

Abigail was the first to drop off. She blinked once or twice at the ceiling, shut her eyes and fell asleep instantly.

And snored.

It wasn't ordinary snoring. It could best be described as a combination of a hippopotamus with sinus trouble, an electric sander, a truck dumping a load of gravel, peak-hour traffic along a six-lane motorway and a dam bursting its banks.

Everyone sat up in bed saying polite things such as, 'Look, Abigail, do you mind…' and 'Abigail, sorry but do you realise…' But none of that had any effect and they started to bellow at her instead.

No luck. Abigail kept at it all night, bouncing out of bed in the morning glowing with health and rest. When the others gently mentioned the problem, she promised that she would try and restrain herself the following night.

Promises are all very well.

In fact, the next night she put on an astonishing performance, as though the previous night's snoring had just been a practice run.

'We can't go a whole week without sleep,' Natasha said desperately.

'We could try-' Laura said shyly but nobody heard.

'I'll just have to invent a special machine that cures snoring,' said Charlotte, who came from a long line of engineers.

When she had made her machine, Charlotte explained how it worked. 'I've sticky-taped a paper bag, open end down, on the wall just above Abigail's face. Above the bag there'll be a sheet of cardboard. Fixed to that will be a glove stuffed with something heavy so that it's like a boxing glove. Above the glove will be another board, and poised on one end will be a heavy object, like a boot. Just below the boot, on Abigail's bedside table, there will be a ruler balanced over a matchbox, and on the other end of the ruler, there'll be a bowl of water. And in the water, the thickest, soggiest sponge we can find.'

'Much easier to-' said Laura, but Charlotte and Natasha told her to shut up.

'Abigail's snoring will inflate the paper bag,' said Charlotte. 'The bag of breath will push against the cardboard. The cardboard will push up the glove which will punch the board holding the heavy object. The heavy object will fall on to the ruler edge which will tip the saucer of water and the sponge right in to the middle of Abigail's snoring and make her shut up![

'Wow!' said Natasha, but Laura didn't say anything.

'I don't think it will work,' Laura said, but again nobody took any notice of her.

It was as though Abigail knew, even in her sleep, that some momentous experiment was taking place, for her snoring reached an astonishing crescendo. Very slowly the paper bag above her face began to swell. It billowed like a balloon and pushed against the cardboard shelf. The glove, stuffed with chocolate papers and socks, moved too. It rapped the board above, and the carefully balanced boot slipped off, as clean as an anchor. The boot then crashed down on the ruler edge. The saucer of water and the sponge jumped into the air and landed with a wet splosh right in Abigail Martin's face.

'Zzzzzzzzzz,' she said, without even flickering an eyelash.

Charlotte burst into tears of disappointment. Natasha tried to comfort her, but it's hard to murmur soothing words against a background of trumpeting snores.

‘I’ll ring my Mum and get her to come and pick me up,’ Charlotte said, sniffing. ‘I’m not going to miss a whole week’s sleep.’

‘Nor me,’ said Natasha. ‘Is there room for my things in your Mum’s car?’

‘I don’t want to go home yet and miss camp,’ Laura said. ‘Anyhow, I think I can-‘

‘Why don’t you just shut up for once,’ Natasha said indignantly.

‘-stop Abigail snoring,’ Laura finished. She stood on her bed and gently turned Abigail Martin off her back and on to her side.

‘There,’ Laura said into the sudden calm of the snoreless room. ‘That’s how you stop people snoring.’

Adapted from the short story, Anti-Snoring Ma

SECTION A

In this section, only answer in full sentences when asked to do so

1. Why did everybody want to share a room with Abigail Martin when they went on the camp holiday?
   2 marks

2. List the five ways in which Abigail's snoring is described. Explain in a sentence which image you think is the most effective and why.
   8 marks

3. Make a list of all the items that would be needed to carry out Charlotte's plan.
   5 marks

4. In a paragraph, name the character in the story who you think is the most powerful. Explain why you think this.
   10 marks

   Total marks for Section A: 25

SECTION B

In this section, you will gain marks for accurate expression, spelling and punctuation as well as for interesting ideas.

ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

EITHER:

1. Write a short story beginning with the words: Promises are all very well.

OR:

2. You have been asked to write a letter of complaint to a holiday company because your holiday went disastrously wrong. This letter will be used in a radio comedy sketch so your complaints must be about silly and outrageous things that happened to you *such as* finding a shark in a swimming pool. (You must not use the shark in the swimming pool idea).

25 marks

Total for paper: 50 marks