MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT *of* ENGLISH

11+ and Pre-Test Entrance Exam: English

Sample Paper

Time allowed: 60 minutes

Instructions

- Write your name clearly on the top of each sheet of paper
- You must start Section B on a new sheet of paper
- Answer ONE question in Section A and ONE question in Section B

Information

- There are 25 marks available for Section A and 25 marks for Section B
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers

Advice

- You are advised to spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B
- Remember: we are interested in reading imaginative and engaging responses as well as the accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Section A (25 marks)

This section tests your creative skills and accuracy in spelling, grammar and punctuation. We are keen to read engaging responses that show real care when developing character, place and mood.

When marking your work, we will be interested to see whether you can…

- ✓ Use words (ie, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) to create a mood or atmosphere
- ✓ Punctuate and paragraph your writing correctly
- ✓ Vary the length and range of your sentences

Don't…

- ✗ Try to develop a huge plot in this short period of time. It is far better to work on the three components underlined above.

Select ONE of the tasks below:

1. Using the image of an old-fashioned sailing ship below, write a description of a person and significant moment in their life whilst sailing on this ship.



OR…

2. Read the following extract, which describes arriving at a desert island, and continue the story in any way you like. We will be most impressed if you can develop a sense of mood through your description of the island and the emotions of the boy.

> The appearance of the island when they came on deck next morning was altogether changed. Grey-coloured woods covered a large part of the surface. The even tint was broken up by streaks of yellow sandbreak in the lower lands, and by many tall trees of the pine family – some singly, some in clumps – but the general colouring was uniform and sad. The ship rolled in the ocean swell, and the boy had to cling tight to the backstay while the world turned giddily before his eyes…

Section B (25 marks)

This section tests your ability to write non-fiction. Give careful thought to the task and those receiving your letter. Do not be concerned if you cannot set the letter out correctly.

When marking your work, we will be interested to see whether you can…

- ✓ Match the style of your writing to the audience (for example, use formal language in the letter to your Headteacher, and less formal language in the speech to pupils).
- ✓ Make your writing lively and entertaining
- ✓ Punctuate and paragraph your writing correctly

Select ONE of the tasks below:

1. Your teacher has asked your class to suggest suitable places for a school trip. **Write a letter to your teacher** arguing for a school trip to a place that you have visited.
   Begin your letter: "Dear Sir…"

OR…

2. The pupils at your current school have been given the opportunity to vote for either football or tennis as their main sport this year. **Write a speech to be delivered to your classmates** in which you argue for either football or tennis as the school's main sport.
   Begin your speech: "Dear fellow pupils…"

END OF TEST