HIGHGATE

English

11+ Sample Paper A

Time allowed: I hour

- Part 1 (comprehension and analysis): 40 minutes
- Part 2 (creative writing): 20 minutes

Make sure you check your work thoroughly for mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Name	
Current School	

Teacher use only	Part 1 (out of 30)	Part 2 (out of 20)	Total (out of 50)	Grade/%

Jack London was an American author and journalist. This passage is from his novel 'The Call of The Wild', set in Alaska in the 1890s. It tells the story of a sled dog and the people with whom he works.

1. Down the frozen waterway toiled a string of wolfish dogs. Their bristly fur was rimed with frost. Their breath froze in the air as it left their mouths, spouting forth in spumes of vapour that settled upon the hair of their bodies and formed into crystals of frost. Leather harness was on the dogs, and leather traces attached them to a sled which dragged along behind. The sled was without runners. It was made of stout birchbark, and its full surface rested on the snow.

2. The front end of the sled was turned up, like a scroll in order to force down the soft snow that surged like a wave before it. On the sled, securely lashed, was a long and narrow oblong box. There were other things on the sled-blankets, an axe, and a coffee-pot and frying-pan; but prominent, occupying most of the space, was the long and narrow oblong box.

3. At front and rear toiled two men. Their bodies were covered with fur and soft-tanned leather. Eyelashes and cheeks and lips were so coated with the crystals from their frozen breath that their faces were not discernible. This gave them the seeming of ghostly masques, undertakers in a spectral world at the funeral of some ghost. But under it all they were men, penetrating the land of desolation and silence.

4. They travelled on without speech, saving their breath for the work of their bodies. On every side was the silence. It affected their minds as the many atmospheres of deep water affect the body of the diver.

5. An hour went by, and a second hour. The pale light of the short sunless day was beginning to fade, when a faint far cry arose on the still air. It soared upward with a swift rush, till it reached its topmost note, where it persisted, palpitant and tense, and then slowly died away. It might have been a lost soul wailing, had it not been full of a sad fierceness and hunger. The front man turned his head until his eyes met the eyes of the man behind. And then, across the narrow oblong box, each nodded to the other.

6. A second cry arose, piercing the silence with needle-like shrillness. Both men located the sound. It was to the rear, somewhere in the snow expanse they had just crossed. A third and answering cry arose, also to the rear and to the left of the second cry.

7.'They're after us, Bill,' said the man at the front. His voice sounded hoarse and unreal, and he had spoken with effort. 'Meat is scarce,' answered his comrade. 'I ain't seen a rabbit sign for days.'

8. Thereafter they spoke no more, though their ears were keen for the hunting-cries that continued to rise behind them.

(1903)

Section 1

PLEASE SPEND <u>40 MINUTES</u> ON THIS SECTION. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE READ THE PASSAGE CAREFULLY. THE NUMBERS REFER TO THE PARAGRAPHS IN THE QUESTIONS

1. Describe the weather in one sentence, using your own words (paragraph 1):

_____
_

_____
_

(1 mark)

2. List two items on the sled (paragraph 2):

_____
_

_____
_

(2 marks)

3. What are the men's faces compared to in paragraph 3? Write out the sentence from the passage using quotation marks:

_____

_____

_____

(3 marks)

4. Choose two words from this descriptive sentence and explain what effect they create:

First word: _____

Effect: _____

_____

_____

Second word: _____

Effect: _____

_____

_____

(6 marks)

5. **The writer describes how the silence affects the men as 'deep water affects the body of the diver.' In your own words explain what the men feel like (paragraph 4).**

_____
_

_____
_

_____
_

(3 marks)

6. **Using your own words, describe the mood or atmosphere in the wilderness (paragraph 5):**

_____
_

_____
_

_____
_

(3 marks)

7. **Select two words or phrase that describe the sound of the wolves in paragraph 6. Briefly explain in full sentences what mood these creates:**

Word or phrase:

_____

Mood created:

_____

_____

_

_____

_

Word or phrase:

_____

Mood created:

_____

_____

_

_____

_

(6 marks)

8. **Write a <u>new</u> sentence for each of the three words below, that shows that you understand their meaning.**

Toiled	_____ _____
Discernible	_____ _____
Desolation	_____

	_____ (6 marks)

Section 2

SPEND ABOUT 20 MINUTES ON THIS PART OF THE PAPER, INCLUDING THE TIME YOU TAKE TO CHECK YOUR ANSWER.

Write a diary entry in which you describe an interesting outdoor setting that you have visited.

In your answer, make sure that you:

- **Give detailed description of the place and its atmosphere**
- **Describe your thoughts and feelings**
- **Use senses and imagery**
- **Use punctuation accurately**
- **Write in paragraphs**

(20 marks)
