mgs Founded 1515 | The Manchester Grammar School

Candidate no.: .....

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2010
PART 1 ENGLISH EXAMINATION

Time available: 30 minutes

Surname: .....

First Name(s): .....

School: .....

There are 40 questions in this paper and each question is worth one mark.

Answer all the questions by doing them in the order in which they appear. If you find that you cannot answer a particular question straight away, leave it, and return to it later if you have time.

It is best to use capital letters, which are easier to read. If you need to change an answer, cross it out and write the new answer clearly alongside the box.

Instead of leaving blank answer-spaces, you should use any available time at the end of the examination to make the best attempt you can at questions you have not done.

	Marker 1	Marker 2
Total number of ticks		
Total number of crosses		
	Check total is 40 and initial here	Check total is 40 and initial here

A	
B	
C	
D	

Blank Page

Section A.

Ten words have been missed out of the following passage. Each missing word has been given a number in the passage. At the bottom of this page is a list of words, each one of which is identified by a capital letter. We want you to choose the word from the list which BEST fits the meaning of the passage in each of the ten places. In the numbered answer-spaces provided, write the capital letter which identifies the word you choose. Each word may be used only once.

Last week a (…1…) swam past the bottom of my road. I live about a hundred yards away from the Thames, in Pimlico, central London, so when the (…2…) came on the radio, I dashed down to the river to take a look.

1 ☐

2 ☐

There were hundreds of people there already, (…3…) their binoculars and clutching flasks of tea. It was rather a cheery, holiday happening – but also, in some way, a (…4…) moment. Parents had brought their children to (…5…) this event of a lifetime.

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

Peering (…6…) the bridges, we could see that gallant volunteers had waded into the water to try to (…7…) the bewildered creature back downriver. When it became clear she could not do the job herself, they hoisted her onto a rescue (…8…).

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

I saw the barge come steaming back downstream, heading for the (…9…) of the river. On the deck we could make out the grey, shiny mass of the whale, (…10…) by the volunteers splashing water over it. Could they keep her alive for long enough? Could they make it to the open sea?

9 ☐

10 ☐

A.	focusing	H.	miss	O.	kick
B.	surrounded	I.	news	P.	whale
C.	into	J.	mouth	Q.	dull
D.	ran	K.	swam	R.	attacked
E.	neck	L.	buying	S.	under
F.	barge	M.	historic	T.	witness
G.	shoo	N.	plan		

A ☐ Question Total ☐

Section B.

The Earth has existed for about 4.6 billion years. Geologists study how the Earth has developed over this time. They divide the time up into Eons; then they divide Eons into Eras and Eras into Periods; and then Periods are divided into Epochs. The diagram below shows a Geological Timescale. In the right hand column, 'MYA' stands for 'Millions of Years Ago'.

Geological Timescale				
Eon	Era	Period	Epoch	MYA
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene	0.01
			Pleistocene	1.8
		Tertiary	Pliocene	5.3
			Miocene	23
			Oligocene	34
			Eocene	56
			Paleocene	65
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous		145
		Jurassic		199
		Triassic		251
	Paleozoic	Permian		299
		Carboniferous		359
		Devonian		416
		Silurian		443
		Ordovician		488
		Cambrian		542
Precambrian	Proterozoic			2500
	Archean			4600

11. How many Epochs make up the Cenozoic Era?

A 2
B 5
C 7
D 65

11 ☐

12. Dinosaurs were on Earth between about 65 and 250 million years ago. How many Periods was that?

A less than 1
B 1
C 3
D 185

12 ☐

13. The Earth was covered in dense forests about 150 million years before dinosaurs appeared. What Period was that?

A Jurassic
B Triassic
C Carboniferous
D Devonian

13 ☐

14. Which of the following Eras lasted the longest?

A Cenozoic
B Paleozoic
C Proterozoic
D Archean

14 ☐

15 One Period is named after a part of South West England where rocks from that time were first studied. Which Period is that?

A Silurian
B Devonian
C Cretaceous
D Permian

15 ☐

The information on page 4 is reprinted here to help you answer the questions on page 7.

Geological Timescale				
Eon	Era	Period	Epoch	MYA
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			Eocene	56
			Paleocene	65
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous		145
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		Silurian		443
		Ordovician		488
		Cambrian		542
Precambrian	Proterozoic			2500
	Archean			4600

16. Neanderthals died out about 40,000 years ago. What Epoch was that?

A Pleistocene
B Holocene
C Eocene
D Pliocene

16 ☐

17. Which of the following Epochs was the shortest?

A Miocene
B Oligocene
C Eocene
D Paleocene

17 ☐

18. Which of the following makes up about seven-eighths of the time of the Earth's existence?

A Precambrian
B Phanerozoic
C Cenozoic
D Paleozoic

18 ☐

19. How many Epochs are longer than the shortest Period?

A 5
B 3
C 2
D 0

19 ☐

20. Trilobites lived from the beginning of the Cambrian Period to the end of the Permian. Approximately how many million years is that?

A 189
B 291
C 243
D 237

20 ☐

B ☐ Question Total ☐

Section C.

Study this information and table carefully and then answer the questions by writing A, B, C or D in the answer-spaces. The information and table are reprinted on page 10 to help you when you are working on the questions on page 11.

Early last century, some ancient Greek writing was discovered, which helped historians to understand the origin of many Greek words. The symbols used are like pictures rather than letters. Each symbol represents a different consonant and vowel sound, so the symbol for the sound 'da' is different to the symbol for 'de':

The symbol  says da whereas the symbol  says de.

The Symbol Chart below on the right shows the main symbols of this ancient writing. Use this chart, the Word List and the Example Words below to help you answer questions 11-20.

Example Words

 ku-na-ja (kunaja = woman)

 ku-ru-so (kuruso = gold)

 ko-wo (kowo = boy)

Word List

wa-na-ka (wanaka = king)

pa-ka-na (pakana = swords)

ti-ri-po-de (tiripode = tripod)

tu-ka-te (tukate = daughter)

po-me (pome = shepherd)

ma-ra-tu-wo (maratuwo = fennel)

me-ri (meri = honey)

tu-ro (turo = cheese)

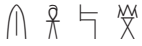
Symbols and their sounds

	a	e	i	o	u
d					
j					
k					
m					
n					
p					
q					
r					
s					
t					
w					
z					

21. 

A honey
B daughter
C cheese
D shepherd

21 ☐

22. 

A daughter
B honey
C tripod
D fennel

22 ☐

23. 

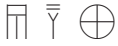
A shepherd
B swords
C king
D boy

23 ☐

24. 

A fennel
B honey
C woman
D swords

24 ☐

25. 

A cheese
B honey
C swords
D king

25 ☐

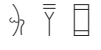
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me-ri (meri = honey)

tu-ro (turo = cheese)

Symbols and their sounds

	a	e	i	o	u
d					
j					
k					
m					
n					
p					
q					
r					
s					
t					
w					
z					

26. 

A tripod
B daughter
C cheese
D gold

26 ☐

27. Which of the following symbols is NOT needed to form words in the Word List?

A 
B 
C 
D 

27 ☐

28. How many times is the symbol  needed to form words in the Word List?

A none
B one
C two
D three

28 ☐

29. Look at the ‘Symbols and their sounds’ chart. Which of the following are unlikely to be words from this ancient writing?

A piwi
B dodo
C quna
D jamira

29 ☐

30. There are some words that could NOT be formed using these symbols, making it difficult to understand how some later Greek words originally came from this writing. Which one of the following types of words COULD be made using these symbols?

A Words with sounds like b and g in them.
B Words that end in consonants.
C Words with more than four syllables
D Words with one consonant next to another.

30 ☐

C ☐ Question Total ☐

Section D.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions by writing the letter A, B, C or D in the appropriate answer-spaces. The passage is reprinted on page 14 to help you when you are working on the questions on page 15.

"You know what?" said Major Dexter Smythe to the octopus. "You're going to have a real treat today if I can manage it."

He had spoken aloud and his breath had steamed up the glass of his Pirelli mask. He took off the mask and spat into it, rubbed the spit around the glass, rinsed it clean and pulled the rubber band of the mask back over his head. He bent down again.

The eye in the mottled brown sack was still watching him carefully from the hole in the coral, but now the tip of a single small tentacle wavered hesitatingly an inch or two out of the shadows and quested vaguely with its pink suckers uppermost. Dexter Smythe smiled with satisfaction. Given time, perhaps one more month on top of the two during which he had been chumming up with the octopus, and he would have tamed the darling. But he wasn't going to have that month. Should he take a chance today and reach down and offer his hand, instead of the expected lump of raw meat on the end of his spear, to the tentacle – shake it by the hand, so to speak? No, Pussy, he thought. I can't quite trust you yet. Almost certainly other tentacles would whip out of the hole and up his arm. He only needed to be dragged down less than two feet, the cork valve on his mask would automatically close and he would be suffocated inside it or, if he tore it off, drowned. He might get in a lucky jab with his spear, but it would take more than that to kill Pussy. No. Perhaps later in the day. It would be rather like playing Russian roulette, and at about the same one-in-five chance. It might be a quick, a whimsical way out of his troubles! But not now. It would leave the interesting question unsolved. And he had promised that nice Professor Bengry at the Institute. Dexter Smythe swam leisurely off towards the reef, his eyes questing for one shape only, the squat sinister wedge of a scorpion fish, or, as Bengry would put it, Scorpaena Plumieri.

adapted from ***Octopussy*** by Ian Fleming

31. Dexter Smythe spits into his diving mask (line 4). Why does he do this?

A This is what divers do for good luck before they dive.
B Spit is a way of disinfecting the mask when you don't have any cleaning materials.
C His breath has misted up the inside of the mask and the spit will clear this away.
D He is alone and so he thinks that it is all right to spit.

31 ☐

32. What is meant by "The eye in the mottled brown sack was still watching him carefully" (line 7)?

A Dexter Smythe uses a sack to collect fish, and one of these fish is peering out.
B The octopus is looking up at Dexter Smythe.
C A fish, almost hidden on the dark bed of the sea, is gazing up at him.
D The stalks of coral resemble eyes looking out of the brown reef.

32 ☐

33. The tentacle of the octopus "quested vaguely" (line 9). What does this mean?

A The octopus being blind cannot see what it is looking for.
B The octopus is being compared to a knight in an old legend going on a quest.
C It is as if the octopus is asking questions, even though it cannot speak.
D The octopus is looking for prey but isn't quite ready to attack.

33 ☐

34. Look at the sentence "Given time… he would have tamed the darling" (lines 10-12). What does this tell us about Dexter Smythe's thoughts?

A He thinks that he needs three months overall to tame the octopus.
B He thinks that it takes one month in total to tame the octopus.
C He wants to tame the octopus so that he can call it "Darling".
D He thinks that he needs three months overall to tame the tentacle.

34 ☐

35. Why does Dexter Smythe consider that he might "reach down and offer his hand" (lines 13-14) to the octopus?

A He wants to know how the skin of the octopus feels.
B He wants to see if the octopus will shake his hand.
C He wants to see if the octopus can tell the difference between his hand and the usual lump of meat.
D He is curious to know whether or not he has tamed it yet.

35 ☐

The passage on page 12 is reprinted here to help you answer the questions on page 15.

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adapted from ***Octopussy*** by Ian Fleming

36. Why does Dexter Smythe call the Octopus “Pussy”?

A He is trying to make the octopus appear less dangerous by giving it a pet name.
B The tentacles of the octopus remind him of a cat’s whiskers.
C He has a cat at his home which he has trained to take meat from the end of his spear.
D Like the octopus, a cat cannot be entirely trusted.

36 ☐

37. When Dexter Smythe thinks about “one-in-five chance” in line 21, he is considering the chances of his being killed. Which of the following is another way of expressing this?

A There is no chance that he will die.
B The chance that he will die is small.
C The chance that he will die is very big.
D It is certain that he will die.

37 ☐

38. What does Dexter Smythe think would be “a whimsical way out of his troubles” (line 22)?

A playing Russian roulette.
B being killed by the octopus.
C being stung by the scorpion fish.
D killing the octopus with his bare hands.

38 ☐

39. Why does Professor Bengry call the fish Scorpaena Plumieri (line 26)?

A Professor Bengry is a scientist and calls the fish by its scientific name.
B Professor Bengry is Italian and talks Italian whenever he gets excited.
C The professor has named the fish after the plum-coloured stripes on its back.
D The professor is trying to outwit Dexter Smythe by talking a language he cannot understand.

39 ☐

40. What has Dexter Smythe promised Professor Bengry?

A a dead octopus.
B some live coral.
C a scorpion fish.
D a diving lesson.

40 ☐

END OF EXAMINATION
USE ANY REMAINING TIME TO CHECK YOUR WORK
OR TRY ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE NOT ANSWERED.

D		Question Total	