# MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL

## 11+ OFFICIAL PRACTICE PAPER

# ENGLISH

**Time Allowed: 60 minutes**

***Instructions:*** **This paper is in two parts – a comprehension and your own composition. You should spend about half an hour on each part.**

## SECTION ONE: COMPREHENSION- 30 Minutes

**This extract is from *Tunnels* by Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams. In this passage, Will and Chester are exploring a strange, underground city they have discovered when they are captured by strangers.**

**Read the passage carefully all the way through and then answer the questions that follow in the answer booklet.**

Will gazed up at the arching roof of the cavern above them. 'You know, by now we must nearly be under the High Street.'

Peering into the windows and soaking up the strangeness of the ancient shops, they kept walking, driven by their careless curiosity until they came to a place where the tunnel split into three. The centre fork appeared to descend into the earth at a marked angle.

'Right, that's it,' Chester said resolutely. 'We're leaving now. I'm not going to get lost down here.' All his instincts were screaming that they should turn back.

'All right,' Will agreed, 'but – '

He was just stepping off the pavement on to the cobbled road when there was an ear-splitting crash of iron on stone. In a blinding flash, four white horses bore down on him, sparks spraying from their hooves, breathing hard and pulling behind them a sinister black coach. Will didn't have time to react, as that very instant they were both yanked off their feet and hoisted into the air by the scruffs of their necks.

A single man held them both, dangling helplessly, in his huge gnarled hands. 'Interlopers!' the man shouted, his voice fierce and gravelly as he lifted the pair up to his face and inspected them with a look of repugnance. Will tried to bring his spade up to beat him off, but it was wrestled from his grip. Will caught sight of a five-pointed star of orange-gold material stitched into the man's coat. Their massive, menacing captor was clearly some sort of policeman.

‘Help,’ Chester mouthed silently at his friend, his voice deserting him as they were buffeted about in the man’s vice-like grip.

‘We’ve been expecting you,’ the man rumbled.

Put me down!’ Will tried to swivel around, kicking out at the man.

‘No use wriggling.’ The man hoisted the struggling boy even higher in the air. In sheer desperation, Chester tried to head-butt the man. He jerked his face away, but not before Chester, with a wild swing of his arm, had swiped his helmet. But Will hardly noticed any of this. His attention had been seized by a tall, thin individual standing beside a lamp-post, whose hard face was set atop a stark white collar and long, dark coat that reflected the light as if it was made from polished leather. He stood out strikingly from the squat people about him, his shoulders slightly bent over like a highly strung bow. His whole being emanated evil and his dark eyes never left Will’s, who felt a wave of dread wash over him.



1. Put the following events in the order in which they occur in the extract. Number them from one to five, **where one happens first and five happens last**.

| | |
|---|---|
| Will notices the man's police badge | |
| A horse and carriage arrives | |
| Chester suggests that they leave | |
| Will sees the tall, thin man watching them | |
| Will's spade is taken from him | |

[5]

2. Look at lines 1-8. In your own words, explain how the boys feel as they explore the underground city.

[2]

3. The writer describes Chester's feelings about the place in line 8: '*All his instincts were screaming that they should turn back.'* What kind of picture does this line create in your mind?

[4]

4. What do you think the writer means in line 3 when he says that the boys were '*soaking up the strangeness of the ancient shops'*?

[4]

5. **Circle** the word or phrase which has the closest meaning to '*repugnance*' (line 1)

Disgust Confusion Bitterness Pity Hatred

[2]

6. Carefully read lines 10-14. **Explain** how the writer creates an atmosphere of shock and confusion here. Include **two quotes** from these lines in your answer.

[5]

7. Explain in your own words how Will and Chester are captured.

[5]

8. Think of two words that, in your opinion, best describe the attack on the boys. Give credit for any two sensible suggestions

[4]

9. Look back at the whole passage. Find **three** points in the text where the writer creates a sinister or frightening atmosphere for the reader. For each example, give the line(s) you have chosen and **explain how** the writer makes it a scary moment.

[9]

**END OF SECTION ONE.** **TOTAL MARKS FOR PART ONE - 40**

**SECTION 2: Composition – 30 Minutes**

Write in full sentences and organise your work into paragraphs. Marks are available for accurate spelling and punctuation. You should spend time planning and checking your work. Choose **one** of the following ideas:

Either:

**1) What happens next?**

Carry on from where the *Tunnels* extract finishes. Start with the line, 'His whole being emanated evil and his dark eyes never left Will's, who felt a wave of dread wash over him' and continue the story. You don't have to *end* the story; write 3-4 detailed paragraphs in which you describe what happens next.

Or:

**2) An interesting or unusual place I have visited.**

Write an article for your school magazine about an interesting place you have visited recently. You might like to explain what you found different or unusual about the place, what kinds of things you saw and experienced and the impact the place had on you. Remember that you are writing for people of your own age.

Or:

**3) An Encounter with a Villain.**

Write an account in which you encounter a villainous character. You should make up details about his/her appearance, their character, and what they say and do. Try to use description to entertain and excite the reader.

Or:

**4) A Mysterious Discovery.**

You discovered something very strange on your way home from school yesterday. Write a letter to your friend in which you explain what you found in detail: where you were, what happened, how you felt and what you did.

**END OF SECTION TWO.** **TOTAL MARKS FOR PART TWO - 40**