Alleyn's

11+ ENGLISH
SAMPLE EXAMINATION PAPER 2

One hour 10 minutes.

Co-educational
excellence

READING PASSAGE

In this story the narrator, a boy named Arthur, is orphaned after World War 2 and sent on a ship to another country to live. He makes a friend on the ship called Marty.

There were dozens of us on the ship, all ages, boys and girls, and we were all up on deck for the leaving of Liverpool, gulls wheeling and crying over our heads, calling goodbye. I thought they were waving goodbye. None of us spoke. It was a grey day with drizzle in the air, the great sad cranes bowing to the ship from the docks as we steamed past. That's all I remember of England.

The deck shuddered under our feet. The engines thundered and throbbed as the great ship turned slowly and made for the open sea ahead, the mist rolling in from the horizon. The nuns had told us we were off to Australia, but it might as well have been to the moon. I had no idea where Australia was. All I knew at the time was that the ship was taking me away, somewhere far away over the ocean. The ship's siren sounded again, deafening me even though I had my hands over my ears. When it was over I clutched the key around my neck, the key Kitty had given me, and I promised myself and promised her I'd come back home one day. I felt in me at that moment a sadness so deep that it has never left me since. But I felt too that just so long as I had Kitty's key, it would be lucky for me, and I would be all right.

I suppose we must have gone by way of the Suez Canal*. I know that most of the great liners bound for Australia did in those days. But I can't say I remember it. There's a lot I do remember though: the three pillar-box-red funnels, the sound of the orchestra playing from first class where we weren't allowed to go – once they even played *London Bridge is Falling Down* and I loved that because it always made me happy when I heard it. I remember mountainous waves, higher than the deck of the ship, green or grey, or deepest blue some days, schools of silver dancing dolphins, and always, even in the stormiest weather, seabirds skimming the waves, or floating high above the funnels. And there was the wide, wide sea

all around us, going on it seemed to me for ever and ever, as wide as the sky itself. It was the wideness of it all I remember, and the stars at night, the millions of stars. But best of all I saw my first albatross. He flew out of a shining wave one day, came right over my head and looked down deep into my eyes. I've never forgotten that.

The ship was, in a way, my first home, because it was the first home I can remember. We slept two to a bunk, a dozen or more of us packed into each cabin, deep down in the bowels of the ship, close to the pounding rhythm of the engines. It was cramped and hot down there and reeked of diesel and damp clothes, and there was often the stench of vomit too, a lot like mine. I was in with a lot of other lads all of whom were older than me, some a lot older.

I was in trouble almost from the start. They called me a "softie" because I'd rock myself to sleep at night, humming *London Bridge is Falling Down*, and because I cried sometimes. They gave me a hard time, a lot of grief. They'd thump me with pillows, hide my clothes, hide my shoes. But sending me to Coventry was the worst, just refusing to speak to me, not even acknowledging my existence. I really hated them for that. They reserved this particular punishment for when I was at my most miserable, when I'd been sick in the cabin.

During that whole long voyage into an uncertain future, Marty cheered my spirits. He became like a big brother to me, which was why I confided in him about Kitty, about how she'd been left behind and how much I missed her. You need people like Marty just to keep you going. Even if things don't seem to be working out quite as you'd like them to, you need to feel they're going to, that all will be well in the end. If you don't believe that, and sometimes in my life I haven't, then there's a deep black hole waiting for you**,** a black hole I came to know only too well later on.

**Suez Canal = a waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea*

END OF READING PASSAGE

SECTION A: READING

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on Section A. First, please read the passage carefully and then answer ALL the questions in this booklet.

1. What 2 things does Arthur remember about leaving Liverpool in paragraph 1? [2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. List 4 details that the narrator tells you about the ship itself in lines 6 – 30**.** [4 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. List 3 features of the natural world that Arthur notices on his journey in **lines17- 30** and then explain why he finds each one memorable. You should try to use your own words.

[6 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. The journey is an unpleasant experience for Arthur. Look at **lines 31- 43**: name 4 emotions that you think Arthur feels and explain why you think he feels this way.

[8 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. a) Write the definition of the words or phrases in **bold** below**.**
   b) Explain why the writer has used this particular phrase.

   ‘sad cranes **bowing’** (line 4) [2 marks]

   a) .....

   b) .....

   .....

   ‘thundered and **throbbed ’** (line 6) [2 marks]

   a) .....

   b) .....

   .....

   ‘clutched the key’ (line12) [2 marks]

   a) .....

   b) .....

   .....

‘bowels of the ship’ (line 33) [2 marks]

a) .....

b) .....

.....

‘reeked of diesel’ (line 34) [2 marks]

a) .....

b) .....

.....

6. Look back over the whole passage. Using your own words, in <u>four sentences</u>, explain what sort of boy you think the narrator, Arthur, is and why.

[8 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

7. How does the author make the passage interesting to read and dramatic for the reader? You should write about :
    - words/phrases
    - Arthur's voice in the story
    - sentence lengths and sentence types. [10 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

8. Reread the final paragraph. In your own words, explain what Arthur means in the final two sentences (lines 47-51) and why he refers to a ‘deep, black hole’.

“Even if things don’t seem to be working out quite as you’d like them to, you need to feel they’re going to, that all will be well in the end. If you don’t believe that, and sometimes in my life I haven’t, then there’s a deep black hole waiting for you, a black hole I came to know only too well later on.“

[2 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

END OF SECTION A

[Section A = 50 marks]

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

SECTION B: WRITING

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on section B.

You must take care to plan, check and correct your work.

Presentation and accuracy of spelling and punctuation will be assessed in the marking of this section.

Answer ONE of the following two questions:

Either:

1. Write about an exciting journey. Try to make your writing as vivid and interesting as you can. [50 marks]

Or:

2. Write about a person who is important to you. Try to make your writing as vivid and interesting as you can.

[50 marks]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

END OF PAPER