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THE PERSE

UPPER SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

Year 7 Entrance Exams

English

Specimen Paper 1

Time allowed: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Instructions to candidates:

1. There are two questions on this paper.
2. Answer both of them.
3. For the first question, read the passage and answer the questions which follow it.
4. For the second question, write about **one** of the subjects.
5. Remember to leave enough time to do both questions properly.

QUESTION ONE

There are different types of question for you to answer.

The space for your answer shows what type of writing is needed:

- **short answer**

Some questions are followed by a short line.

This shows that you need write only a word or phrase in your answer.

- **several line answers**

Some questions are followed by a few lines.

This gives you space to write a few words or a sentence or two.

- **longer answers**

Some questions are followed by a large box.

This shows that a longer, more detailed answer is needed to explain your opinion.

Try to write in full sentences.

MARKS: the number beside the question shows you how many marks there are for each question.

The teacher taking you will tell you when you should be starting Question Two.

“Can you stop the car? I’m going to be sick,” moaned Oliver.

“Not *again,”* Prill muttered, under her breath. It was the third time since Dublin.

Mr Blakeman pulled off the road, slammed the brakes on, and jumped out, grabbing Oliver and steering him towards a clump of grass. The sudden jolt had woken the baby and she was wriggling in her mother’s arms, making the dry-throated complaining noise that was usually followed by a great bawl. By now she must be both hungry and wet. Before too long they’d have to stop yet again and get the nappies out. They were never going to reach Dr. Moynihan’s bungalow at this rate.

From the front seat Colin sneaked a quick look at his cousin. This car business was getting ridiculous. Nobody could help being sick but by now Oliver couldn’t have anything left to be sick with. It was all in his mind.

“Please would you move up?” the small boy said to Prill. There was plenty of room but she still slid over towards her mother, leaving a strip of seat between them. Oliver’s large pale eyes inspected it carefully, then he bent down and lifted a pile of books back on to his bony knees, hugging them to his chest as if to ward off blows.

Colin and Prill had looked at the books last night, in the Dublin hotel. Most of them were about bugs and beetles, and there was one about Ireland too. Mr Blakeman was impressed.

“Your cousin’s obviously been doing his homework,” he said. “Look at all these ... Insects ... mosses ... *The Land and People of Ireland ...* This is what you two should have been doing. When you’re going to spend a month in a place like Ballimagliesh it’s as well to know something about it.”

Prill was cross. Dad didn’t often sound like a schoolteacher, even though he was one. Anyway, she’d been too busy practising for her Gold Award down at the swimming pool to do much reading, and Colin had only just come back from the school camp.

Oliver’s books smelt peculiar. They weren’t new, with shiny coloured jackets, but musty and faded, and they all had Uncle Stanley’s name in the front. That smell had taken Colin right back into his early childhood, to a place in London, a tall, thin house in a terrace near the River Thames. He could remember a gloomy front door with the paint peeling, and dark corridors inside, where old men and women came and went silently, like ghosts.

a. How many times has Oliver been sick on the journey from Dublin before the story begins? **[1]**

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b. Where is the family travelling to? **[1]**

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c. What is meant by the suggestion that Oliver's sickness is "all in his mind"? **[3]**

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d. Which two people is Prill sitting between in the back of the car? **[2]**

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e. Can you think of another word or phrase for:

jolt?..... bawl?.....

blows?..... musty? ..... **[2]**

f. What has Oliver been reading about to prepare himself for a month's stay at Ballimagliesh? **[2]**

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g. What makes Prill cross about Mr Blakeman's words? **[3]**

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h. How would you describe the sort of person Oliver is, as shown in the passage? **[4]**

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i. Imagine you are Oliver. Write down what you might be thinking and feeling on a visit in your early childhood to Uncle Stanley's house in London. **[7]**

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QUESTION TWO

(there are 25 marks for this question)

Write your answer to this question on the paper which has been given out with the question paper.

You may use some of it for an essay plan, but be careful not to spend too much time on the plan!

You must choose to write just **one** piece of writing from the four listed below:

1. **Journey to a New Land** is a magazine article;

2**. A Visit** is a letter;

3. **The Decision** is a short story;

4. **Travelling by Air** is a description.

1. **Journey to a New Land.** You have been asked to write an article for a magazine, in which you tell the story of a journey you made to a new land. You should tell your readers:

- What the journey was like;
- Why you made the journey;
- What was interesting about the new land;
- How you felt when you arrived.

2. **A Visit.** Write a letter telling a relative or friend about a visit of some sort which you made. You should think about:

- Why you went on the visit;
- What happened when you were there;
- What the result was.

Think about how to start and end your letter in the right way.

3. **The Decision.** Write a short story about a time when you found yourself having to make a difficult decision. Think about:

- What the decision was that you had to make;
- Why you made the decision you did;
- What happened next;
- What your thoughts and feelings were afterwards.

4. **Travelling by Air.** Write a description of a time when you had to go somewhere by air. Start with the following sentence: **"At last the aircraft started to move and I found myself moving up and ahead quickly, with the sound of the air rushing past me."**
Think about:

- Why you have to travel by air;
- How you feel as you are swept through the air;
- What your thoughts and feelings were when you reached the destination.

END OF TEST