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THE PERSE

UPPER SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

Year 7 Entrance Exams

English

Specimen Paper 2

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.

Emily's first crime was a small one caused by snow.

Roots tripped her; her boots plunged into snowdrifts. Tiny avalanches cascaded coldly onto her hat, face and shoulders. Little by little, she squeezed herself through the gap in the thick hedge, the snow-covered flakes scraping against her coat. Snowflakes landed on her eyelids and made her blink. Behind her, her sledge caught against something. She yanked viciously at the cord and felt it bump itself free.

With another step she was standing in the castle grounds, her heart beating fast, her eyes peeled for danger. So far, so good. There was no one in sight.

She was up to her knees in a low snowdrift that had built up inside the hedge. Away to the right, a straggling flock of birds flew in the grey sky above the wood, while the far hedge was like a pencil line drawn unevenly against the whiteness. All the small dips of Castle Field had been smoothed away by the snow, but a deep shadow beyond marked the great curve of the moat ditch.

A few patches of broken wall leant out unevenly from the moat's raised upper edge. In the background the body of the castle itself rose like a black slab.

Turning, Emily hauled on the cord. Abruptly the sledge jerked into view, only to jam again behind the final mess of stems and tangled thorn. She bent down and pulled the yellow plastic, twisting it so that it came clear. Then she guided it out of the hedge and let it fall onto the snow drift.

She listened. Echoing laughter came from the direction of the moat, muffled by distance and the blanketing snow. Good, others were trespassing too and no one had come to catch *them.* It was going to be all right.

She set off across the field, each stride flaking her legs with white. The cold prickled through her jeans. Later it might become damp and uncomfortable, but now it invigorated her.

Every step helped freeze away the indoor stuffiness of the last few days.

She went down into a slight dip. Now she could no longer see the castle, just part of the outer wall, grey, crested with ice. The sky was heavy with the next snow. Her breath rose in big bursts of cloud.

a. What is the weather like in the passage? **[1]**

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b. Which form of transport has Emily used to get to the castle grounds? **[1]**

……

c. What do you think the phrase "Her eyes peeled for danger" means? (line 8) **[2]**

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……

d. How deep is the snow just inside the castle grounds? **[2]**

……

……

e. Can you think of another word or phrase for: **[4]**

cascaded..... yanked.....

straggling..... invigorated.....?

f. What has been the effect of the snow on the appearance of Castle Field? **[2]**

……

……

g. What sort of "crime" is Emily committing in the passage? **[2]**

……

……

h. As she sets off across the field, how do Emily's feelings begin to change? **[3]**

……

……

i. Imagine that you are Emily. Using your imagination, describe what you think you might see as you stand in the field looking up at the castle. **[8]**

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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. **An Important Choice** is a letter;

2. **The Accident** is a newspaper article;

3. **Across the Ice** is a description;

4. **Moving On** is a story.

1. An Important Choice. Write a letter telling a relative or friend about an important choice that you had to make. You should think about:

- What you had to choose between;
- The choice you made;
- What the result was.

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

2. The Accident. You have been asked to write an article for a newspaper, in which you describe an accident that took place. You should tell your readers:

- What the accident was;
- How it happened;
- Who the accident happened to;
- What you were thinking and feeling.

3. Across the Ice. Write a description of a time when you had to travel across an icy landscape.

Start with the following sentences: **“Ahead of me everything was blank and empty. I had mixed feelings as I began the journey onward.”**

Think about:

- Why you had to travel across the ice;
- How you felt as you crossed it;
- What your thoughts and feelings were when you reached the destination.

4. Moving On. Write a story about a time when you had to make a move. Think about:

- Why you had to make the move;
- How the move happened;
- What happened after the move;
- What your thoughts and feelings were.

END OF TEST