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THE PERSE

UPPER SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

Year 7 Entrance Exams

English

Specimen Paper 3

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.

Roy would not have noticed the strange boy if it weren't for Dana Matherson, because Roy ordinarily didn't look out the window of the school bus. He preferred to read comics and mystery books on the morning ride to Trace Middle School.

But on this day, a Monday (Roy would never forget), Dana Matherson grabbed Roy's head from behind and pressed his thumbs into Roy's temple, as if he were squeezing a soccer ball. The older kids were supposed to stay in the back of the bus, but Dana had snuck up behind Roy's seat and ambushed him. When Roy tried to wriggle free, Dana mushed his face against the window.

It was then, squinting through the smudged glass, that Roy spotted the strange boy running along the pavement. It appeared as if he was hurrying to catch the school bus, which had stopped at a corner to pick up more kids.

The boy was straw-blond and wiry, and his skin nut-brown from the sun. The expression on his face was intent and serious. He wore a faded Miami Heat basketball jersey and dirty khaki shorts, and here was the odd part: no shoes. The soles of his bare feet looked as black as barbecue coals.

Trace Middle School didn't have the world's strictest dress code, but Roy was pretty sure that some sort of footwear was required. The boy might have been carrying trainers in his backpack, if only he'd been wearing a backpack. No shoes, no backpack, no books - strange, indeed, on a school day.

Roy was sure that the barefoot boy would get in all sorts of trouble with Dana and the other big kids once he boarded the bus, but that didn't happen...

Because the boy kept running - past the comer, past the queue of students waiting to get on the bus; past the bus itself. Roy wanted to shout, 'Hey, look at that boy!' but his mouth wasn't working so well. Dana Matherson still had him from behind, pushing his face against the window.

As the bus pulled away from the junction, Roy hoped to catch another glimpse of the boy farther up the street. However, he had turned off the pavement and was now cutting across a private garden - running very fast, much faster than Roy could run and maybe even faster than Richard, Roy's best friend back in Montana. Richard was so fast that he got to train with the high school running team when he was only in Year Six.

a. What is Roy doing at the start of the passage? **[1]**

……

b. What sort of boy is Dana Matherson? **[1]**

……

c. What does Roy think the boy outside the bus is trying to do? And what is especially unusual about him? **[2]**

……

……

d. What is a "dress code"? (line 16) **[2]**

……

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

ambushed?..... mushed? .....

squinting?..... wiry?..... **[4]**

f. Why do you think Roy was sure that the boy would get into trouble once he boarded the bus? **[2]**

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g. How do you know that Roy was interested in what the boy was doing? **[2]**

……

……

h. Why do you think the boy might be running so fast? **[3]**

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i. Imagine that you are the boy running outside the bus. Using your imagination, describe what you might be thinking and feeling as you run. **[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. A Difficult Decision is a letter;

2. The Collision is a magazine article;

3. Under the Water is a description;

4. Progress is a story.

1. A Difficult Decision. Write a letter telling a relative or friend about an important decision that you had to make. You should think about:

- What the decision was that you had to make;
- Why it was difficult to make the decision;
- What the result was.

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

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

- What collided;
- How it happened;
- Who was involved in the collision;
- What you were thinking and feeling.

3. Under the Water. Write a description of a time when you had to travel beneath the surface of a stretch of water. Start with the following sentences: **"Below me the water was cold and deep. Bravely, I took the plunge."** Think about:

- Why you had to travel under the water;
- How you felt as you travelled;
- What your thoughts and feelings were when you reached the destination.

4. Progress. Write a story about a time when you made progress at something. Think about:

- What chance there was to make progress;
- How the progress happened;
- What took place after you made progress;
- What your thoughts and feelings were.

END OF TEST