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THE PERSE

UPPER SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

Year 7 Entrance Exams

English

Specimen Paper 4

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.

There's an old green Fordson tractor in the back of Grandpa's barn, always covered in cornsacks.

When I was very little, I used to go in there, pull off the cornsacks, climb up and drive it all over the farm. I'd be gone all morning sometimes, but they always knew where to find me. I'd be ploughing or tilling or mowing, anything I wanted. It didn't matter to me that the engine didn't work, that one of the iron wheels was missing, that I couldn't even move the steering wheel.

Up there on the tractor, I was a farmer, like my grandpa, and I could go all over the farm, wherever I wanted. When I'd finished, I always had to put the cornsacks back and cover it up.

Grandpa said I had to, so that it didn't get dusty. That old tractor, he said, was very important, very special. I knew that already of course, but it wasn't until many years later that I discovered just how important, just how special it was.

I come from a family of farmers going back generations and generations, but I wouldn't have known much about it if Grandpa hadn't told me. My own mother and father never seemed that interested in family roots, or maybe they just preferred not to talk about them. My mother grew up on the farm. She was the youngest of four sisters, and none of them had stayed on the farm any longer than they'd had to. School took her away to college. College took her off to London, to teaching first, then to meeting my father, a townie through and through, and one who made no secret of his dislike for the countryside and everything to do with it.

'All right in pictures, I suppose,' he'd say, 'just as long as you don't have to smell it or walk in it.' And he'd say that in front of Grandpa too.

I have always felt they were a little ashamed of Grandpa and his old-fashioned ways, and I never really understood why - until recently, that is. When I found out, it wasn't Grandpa I was ashamed of.

I always loved going down to Devon, to Burrow, his old thatched house at the bottom of a rutty lane. He was born there. He'd never lived anywhere else, nor had any desire to do so. He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth, with the life he's lived.

a. What kind of job does Grandpa do? **[1]**

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b. How do you know that the boy didn't really drive the tractor all over the farm? **[2]**

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c. Why didn't the boy learn much about the farm from his parents? **[3]**

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d. What do you understand by "family roots" (line 13)? **[2]**

……

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

tilling?..... generations? .....

townie?..... rutty? ..... **[4]**

f. Why does it seem odd that the boy's father says that he dislikes the countryside *in front of Grandpa?* **[2]**

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g. Who do you think the boy is really ashamed of? **[1]**

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h. How would you describe the boy's attitude towards his Grandpa and his way of life? **[3]**

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i. Imagine you are the boy in the passage and that you really are given the opportunity to drive a tractor around the farm. Using your imagination, describe what you might be thinking and feeling as you drive. **[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. An Exciting Trip is a letter;

2. The Argument is a newspaper article;

3. Through the Forest is a description;

4. Winning is a story.

1. An Exciting Trip. Write a letter telling a friend or relative about an exciting trip that you made. You should think about:

- What the trip was;
- Why it was exciting;
- What the result was.

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

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

- What the argument was about;
- Why it happened;
- Who was involved in the argument;
- What the people involved were thinking and feeling.

3. Through the Forest. Write a description of a time when you had to travel through a forest.

Start with the following sentences: **“Ahead of me the forest was dark and silent. I realised that I had no choice but to enter it.”** Think about:

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

4. Winning. Write a story about a time when you won something. Think about:

- What the occasion or event was;
- How you managed to win;
- What took place after you had won;
- What your thoughts and feelings were.

END OF TEST