St George's College
WEYBRIDGE

11+ ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

The paper will be 1 hour as it is now and will have two sections: a reading task and a writing task.

READING TASK

There will be one passage of reasonable length or two shorter passages about which candidates will answer questions. The questions will include some answers which require straight forward information retrieval but the bulk of the marks will be awarded for answers which require candidates to deduce, infer and identify ideas and information and also explain and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints.

The following assessment criteria from KS2 are particularly relevant.

The aspects of reading to be assessed are:

- Use of a range of strategies, including accurate decoding of text, to read for meaning
- Understanding describing, selecting or retrieving information, events or ideas from texts and using quotation and reference to the text
- Deducing, inferring or interpreting information, events or ideas from texts
- Identifying and commenting on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level
- Explaining and commenting on writers' use of language, including grammatical and literary features at word and sentence level
- Identifying and commenting on writers' purposes and viewpoints and the overall effect of the text on the reader

WRITING TASK

There will be one writing task requiring a response of medium length or two shorter tasks. The tasks will be drawn from both creative, imaginative pieces of original writing and directed writing tasks such as a letter, diary or information sheet.

The following criteria from KS2 are particularly relevant.

The aspects of writing to be assessed are:

- Writing imaginative, interesting and thoughtful texts
- Producing texts which are appropriate to task, reader and purpose
- Organising and presenting whole texts effectively, sequencing and structuring information, ideas and events
- Constructing paragraphs and using cohesion within and between paragraphs
- Varying sentences for clarity, purpose and effect
- Writing with technical accuracy of syntax and punctuation in phrases, clauses and sentences
- Selecting appropriate and effective vocabulary
- Using correct spelling

READING QUESTION

Read the following passage carefully.

Rhayader is an artist who has bought an old lighthouse and the marshland around so he can live alone, away from other people. He is very kind but because he is disabled he thinks people do not like him and so spends his time painting and looking after the sea birds.

One November afternoon, three years after Rhayader had come to the Great Marsh, a child approached the lighthouse studio by means of the sea wall. In her arms she carried a burden.

She was no more than twelve; slender, dirty, nervous and timid as a bird, but beneath the grime as eerily beautiful as a marsh fairy. She was pure Saxon, large boned, fair, with a head to which her body was yet to grow, and deep-set, violet-coloured eyes.

She was desperately frightened of the ugly man she had come to see, for legend had already begun to gather about Rhayader, and the native wild-fowlers hated him for interfering with their sport.

But greater than her fear was the need of that which she bore. For locked in her child's heart was the knowledge, picked up somewhere in the swampland that this ogre who lived in the lighthouse had magic that could heal injured things.

She had never seen Rhayader before and was close to fleeing in panic at the dark apparition that appeared at the studio door, drawn by her footsteps – the black head and beard, the sinister hump, and the crooked claw.

She stood there staring, poised like a disturbed marsh bird for instant flight.

But his voice was deep and kind when he spoke to her.
"What is it child?"

She stood her ground, and then edged timidly forward. The thing she carried in her arms was a large white bird and it was quite still. There were still stains of blood on its whiteness and on the dress where she had held it to her. The girl placed it in his arms "I found it, sir. It's hurted. Is it still alive?"
"Yes. Yes, I think so. Come in, child come in".

The bird fluttered. With his good hand Rhayader spread one of its immense pinions. The end was beautifully tipped with black. Rhayader looked and marvelled and said "Child, where did you find it?"
"In t'marsh, sir, where fowlers had been. What – what is it, sir?"
"It's a snow goose from Canada. But how in all heavens came it here?"

Her deep violet eyes, shining out of the dirt on her thin face, were fixed with concern on the injured bird. She said "Can'ee heal it, sir?"
"Yes, yes" said Rhayader. "We will try. Come, you shall help me."

There were scissors and bandages and splints on a shelf and he was marvellously deft, even with the crooked claw that managed to hold things.

He said "Ah, she has been shot, poor thing. Her leg is broken and the wing tip! But not badly. See we will clip her feathers so we can bandage it, but in the spring the feathers will grow and she will be able to fly again. We'll bandage it close to her body, so that she cannot move it until it has set, and then make a splint for her leg."

Her fears forgotten, the child watched, fascinated, as he worked, and all the more so because while he fixed a fine splint to the shattered leg he told her the most wonderful story.

The child laughed in delight, and then suddenly caught her breath in alarm as the full importance of where she was pressed in upon her and without a word she turned and fled out of the door.

Now answer the following questions using your own words and referring to the passage where it would help your answer.

1. What was the burden that the girl was carrying? (1 mark)

2. Looking carefully at the passage, what feelings do you think the girl has when she first sees Rhayader? (3 marks)

3. Do you think the girl was brave to visit him? Explain why she had come. (4 marks)

4. What has happened to the bird? (1 mark)

5. What does it mean when it says, "She stood there poised like a disturbed marsh bird for instant flight"? (2 marks)

6. How do you think that Rhayader would have felt when he was bandaging the bird? (4 marks)

7. Why does Rhayader tell the girl a story while he is treating the bird? (1 mark)

8. In your own words, describe how Rhayader looks after the bird? (2 marks)

9. Why does the girl run away at the end? (3 marks)

10. What do you imagine were Rhayader's thoughts during the girl's visit? Do you think they changed? (4 marks)

WRITING QUESTION

Below are a number of pictures telling us just how much water we all use at home. There is also a box of information giving ideas about what we can do to save water.

TYPICAL WATER USE AT HOME

Taking a bath: 80 litres



Watering the garden using a sprinkler: up to 540 litres an hour



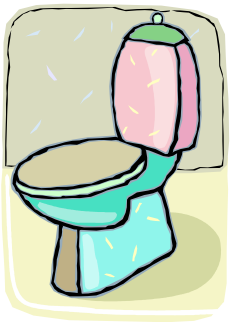
Using a dishwasher: up to 25 litres



Taking a shower: 35 litres



Flushing the toilet: 7.5-9.5 litres



Using a washing machine: up to 65 litres



How can I help conserve water?

Don't leave the tap running while you brush your teeth or shave.

Wash fruit and vegetables in a bowl not under a running tap.

Wash your car with a bucket and sponge.

Collect the water from your bath to use on the garden.

Don't cut your lawn too short in the summer. Longer grass gives shade to the soil surface and reduces the water loss by evaporation.

Task

You have been asked to produce an information leaflet about saving water at home which will be given to every family in the school.

Think carefully about who will receive the leaflet and what might be helpful to them and what they might expect to receive.

Think about the appropriate way to present your advice.

You need to include:

- Useful information about **why** water should be saved
- Advice about **how** to save water

Make sure that you write in an interesting and appropriate way for a leaflet, organising and presenting your work effectively. You should use paragraphs and check your spelling and punctuation. (25 marks)