THE QUEEN'S SCHOOL

Write your number here

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

In ENGLISH

Time: one hour

WRITE YOUR NAME IN CAPITAL LETTERS IN THIS BOX

Do all your answers in this booklet

Reading Test This is on pages 1-5. You should spend 30 minutes on this reading paper. This test is worth 20 marks.

Writing test This is on pages 6-9. The writing test should take about 30 minutes. Write at least a page if you can in the answer booklet. This test is worth 20 marks.

Reading Paper

30 minutes (20 marks)

The following passage is taken from Bram Stoker's novel 'Dracula' published in 1897. The passage is Jonathan Harker's account of his first meeting with Count Dracula. Jonathan Harker is a young, newly qualified lawyer who has been sent to the Carpathian mountains in Transylvania to be a legal advisor for Count Dracula. After a difficult journey, Jonathan arrives outside Dracula's castle.

Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

Suddenly I became aware of the fact that the driver was in the act of pulling up the horses in the courtyard of a vast ruined castle, from whose tall black windows came no ray of light, and whose broken battlements showed a jagged line against the moonlit sky.

In the gloom, the courtyard looked of considerable size, and as several dark ways led from it under great round arches it perhaps seemed bigger than it really is.

When the carriage stopped, the driver jumped down and held out his hand to assist me to alight. Again I could not but notice his prodigious strength. His hand actually seemed like a steel vice that could have crushed mine if he had chosen. Then he took my traps, and placed them on the ground beside me as I stood close to a great door, old and studded with large iron nails, and set in a projecting doorway of massive stone. I could see even in the dim light that the stone was massively carved, but that the carving had been much worn by time and weather. As I stood, the driver jumped again into his seat and shook the reins. The horses started forward, and trap and all disappeared down one of the dark openings. What sort of place had I come to, and among what kind of people? What sort of grim adventure was it on which I had embarked? I began to rub my eyes and pinch myself to see if I were awake. It all seemed like a horrible nightmare to me, and I expected that I should suddenly awake, and find myself at home, with the dawn struggling in through the windows, as I had now and again felt in the morning after a day of overwork. But my flesh answered the pinching test, and my eyes were not to be deceived. I was indeed awake and among the Carpathians. All I could do now was to be patient, and to wait the coming of morning.

Just as I had come to this conclusion I heard a heavy step approaching behind the great door, and saw through the chinks the gleam of a coming light. Then there was the sound of rattling chains and the clanking of massive bolts drawn back. A key was turned with the loud grating noise of long disuse, and the great door swung back.

Within, stood a tall old man, clean shaven save for a long white moustache, and clad in black from head to foot, without a single speck of colour about him anywhere. He held in his hand an antique silver lamp, in which the flame burned without a chimney or globe of any kind, throwing long quivering shadows as it flickered in the draught of the open door. The old man motioned me in with his right hand with a courtly gesture, saying in excellent English, but with a strange intonation.

"Welcome to my house! Enter freely and of your own free will!" He made no motion of stepping to meet me, but stood like a statue, as though his gesture of welcome had fixed him into stone. The instant, however, that I had stepped over the threshold, he

moved impulsively forward, and holding out his hand grasped mine with a strength which made me wince, an effect which was not lessened by the fact that it seemed cold as ice, more like the hand of a dead than a living man. Again he said,

"Welcome to my house! Enter freely. Go safely, and leave something of the happiness you bring!" The strength of the handshake was so much akin to that which I had noticed in the driver, whose face I had not seen, that for a moment I doubted if it were not the same person to whom I was speaking. So to make sure, I said interrogatively, "Count Dracula?"

He bowed in a courtly way as he replied, "I am Dracula, and I bid you welcome, Mr. Harker, to my house. Come in, the night air is chill, and you must need to eat and rest." As he was speaking, he put the lamp on a bracket on the wall, and stepping out, took my luggage. He had carried it in before I could forestall him. I protested, but he insisted….

His face was strong, with high bridge of the thin nose and peculiarly arched nostrils, with lofty domed forehead, and hair growing scantily round the temples but profusely elsewhere. His eyebrows were very massive, almost meeting over the nose, and with bushy hair that seemed to curl in its own profusion. The mouth, so far as I could see it under the heavy moustache, was fixed and rather cruel-looking, with peculiarly sharp white teeth. These protruded over the lips, whose remarkable ruddiness showed astonishing vitality in a man of his years. For the rest, his ears were pale, and at the tops extremely pointed. The chin was broad and strong, and the cheeks firm though thin. The general effect was one of extraordinary pallor.

Hitherto I had noticed the backs of his hands as they lay on his knees in the firelight, and they had seemed rather white and fine. But seeing them now close to me, I could not but notice that they were rather coarse, broad, with squat fingers. Strange to say, there were hairs in the centre of the palm. The nails were long and fine, and cut to a sharp point. As the Count leaned over me and his hands touched me, I could not repress a shudder. It may have been that his breath was rank, but a horrible feeling of nausea came over me, which, do what I would, I could not conceal.

The Count, evidently noticing it, drew back. And with a grim sort of smile, which showed more than he had yet done his protruberant teeth, sat himself down again on his own side of the fireplace. We were both silent for a while, and as I looked towards the window I saw the first dim streak of the coming dawn. There seemed a strange stillness over everything. But as I listened, I heard as if from down below in the valley the howling of many wolves. The Count's eyes gleamed, and he said.

"Listen to them, the children of the night. What music they make!"
(Abridged version taken from ‘Dracula’ by Bram Stoker, published 1897)

intonation- tone of voice

pallor- paleness

ruddiness-red colour

protruberant- bulging out

1. Underline the TWO words below from lines 1-4 that suggest that the castle is old and in a state of decay? (2 marks)

vast	ruined	jagged	broken

2 What technique is being used on line 10, 'His hand actually seemed <u>like a steel vice</u> that could have crushed mine if he had chosen'? (1 mark)

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3. Explain what the writer is suggesting by 'like a steel vice'. (2 marks)

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4. What effect is created by the use of questions in lines 15-17? (1 mark)

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5. What impressions do you get of the Castle in lines 23-26? (3 marks)

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6. What similarity does the narrator notice between the driver of the carriage and the Count in lines 39-42? (1 mark)

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7. What impact does the Count's appearance have on the narrator in lines 56-62? (2 marks)

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8. Finally, referring to the entire passage:

What is it about the description of Count Dracula that is unusual?

Comment <u>on the way that language is used</u> to describe him. Use quotations to support your points. **(8 marks)**

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Reading Total: / 20

Writing Paper

30 minutes

(20 marks)

Select ONE of the following questions to answer.

Use the planning sheets to help you plan your writing.

You will be assessed on:

- ✓ **the content (ideas) of your writing**
- ✓ **the way you structure and paragraph your writing**
- ✓ **the accuracy of your spelling and punctuation**

Either:

1) Describe the most unusual person you have ever met.

Or:

2) A friend has been asked to write a scary story as part of a creative writing club that she belongs to.

Write to her, giving her advice on what makes a great scary story.

Or:

3) Continue the following story:

She stared into the darkness.

Planning Sheet

1) Describe the most unusual person you have ever met.

Who?
When did you meet them?

List some key descriptions (appearance, personality, behaviour, speech etc)

Why were they were unusual?

Now consider the order of your ideas- paragraph by paragraph:

Planning Sheet

2. **A friend has been asked to write a scary story as part of a creative writing club that she belongs to.**

Write to her, giving her <u>advice</u> on what makes a great scary story.

List all of the features that make a scary story. Think about <u>characters</u>, <u>setting</u> etc ....

Now consider the order of your ideas- paragraph by paragraph:

- You should begin by thanking her for the message telling you that she has been asked to write for her writing club and telling her not to worry as you are writing to offer her advice!

Remember to begin:
Dear ...

and ending

Lots of love
Your name

Planning Sheet

3) Continue the opening of this story:

She stared into the darkness.

Genre:

Plot:

Setting/ descriptions:

Characters:

Think about: Who is telling the story?

Now consider the order of your ideas- paragraph by paragraph:

How will your story begin?

How will your story end?