OUNDLE
School

Junior Entrance and Scholarship Examination 2011

English

Time allowed: **1 hour**

Instructions

- *Please write your name at the top of each piece of paper you use*
- *Answer as many questions as you can*
- *Answer in full sentences*
- *Remember to leave yourself enough time to check your work*

Good Luck

Section A.

Spend approximately 30 minutes on this section.

Read through this passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- *Make sure you express yourself accurately*
- *Take note of the number or marks available for each question*

Alex trains tigers to perform acts in a circus.

The friendship which exists between the trainer and his Royal Bengal tigers is supremely evident throughout the entire act. One of them lies down in the sawdust at his feet and then proceeds to roll over and over, like some amiable dog, across the entire width of the cage. Then Alex turns his back on the animals, walks across the ring, stands with his legs apart, and calls one of them; whereupon the tiger descends from his low pedestal, crosses the ring to come to a halt half-way between his trainer's legs, and Alex sits down on his back, patting his flank.

On one occasion he had to reprimand this tiger for trying to pick a fight with one of the others, and Khan emitted low, rumbling growls as the act proceeded. Alex was none too happy about turning his back on him and calling him over between his legs as usual. Were the tiger to wreak his revenge by springing at the back of his neck and pulling him to the ground he would be utterly helpless, and his heart beat considerably faster than usual as the tiger, still rumbling ominously, came nearer and nearer. He halted in his usual fashion, and when Alex lowered himself onto the striped back, Khan turned his head, opened his mouth and closed his teeth around the man's calf. "This is it," Alex told himself rigidly forbidding himself to snatch his leg away – the instinctive reaction, yet one which would have proved fatal. Khan tightened his teeth and Alex waited for his leg to be bitten in two, but the tiger intended to retaliate just so far and no further. He gave his trainer a strong pinch with his razor-sharp incisors, but he did not break the skin, and then, slowly, he relaxed his grip.

"It was for all the world as though he were saying: 'You take liberties with me, my boy, and I'll do the same thing with you,'" Alex recalls with a grin. "But it gave me a few anxious moments, I don't mind admitting!"

Until fairly recently, one of the tigers 'talked' into a microphone, which Alex held in front of his muzzle, but after a while the tiger showed signs of distress and resentment whenever the microphone was put near him, though he would take meat from his trainer's mouth quite happily a few moments later. Alex suspected the trouble lay with the microphone. He omitted it from the act at the next performance – only to find the tiger resented even his hand when he placed it in front of its mouth.

Eventually, Alex experimented by touching the metal grille with his tongue and the whole thing became clear, for he felt a tiny tingling sensation, indicative of a short circuit. The wet nose of the tiger had obviously felt a slight electric shock when it came into contact with the apparatus, so this trick was dropped and there was no further trouble.

1. What comparison does the writer use in the first paragraph to suggest how friendly the tigers can be? (2 marks)

2. The second act is mentioned at the end of the first paragraph. What animal does the tiger seem to be like in this part of the act? (2 marks)

3. What do you think initially caused Khan to make "low rumbling growls" (line 9) during one performance? (2 marks)

4. Why do you think it would have "proved fatal" if Alex had snatched his leg away? (3 marks)

5. Explain what the following words mean. Look to use the passage to help you make a guess if you do not know.
   a) Pedestal (line 6)
   b) Ominously (line 13)
   c) Omitted (line 29)
   d) Indicative (line 33) (4 marks)

6. Why, after the microphone trick, do you think the tiger would take meat from the trainer's mouth but not from his hand? (2 marks)

7. What impressions do you get of Khan from this passage? Give reasons for your answer? (4 marks)

8. What impressions do you get of Alex from this passage? Give reasons for your answer? (3 marks)

Section B

Spend approximately 20 minutes on this section

You are not allowed to buy a pet in this country until you are 16 years old.

Explain whether you think this is a good law or not. (15 marks)

You might wish to consider

- Whether children are responsible enough to look after a pet
- The problems pets can cause in a home
- The benefits of having a pet

Section C.

Spend approximately 20 minutes on this section

Choose **one** of the following pictures and write a diary entry for one of the people in the picture. (15 marks)









End of Paper

If you have time left, you should check your work carefully.