OUNDLE
School

Junior Entrance and Scholarship Examination 2012

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

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

Hannah lives in an old, strange house. Nick has called to the house as he is writing about the eccentric millionaire who built the house and lived there. Hannah is showing him the house and they enter the library

Hannah led the way briskly along the servants' corridor, not giving anyone a chance to stop. It was impossible to remember what all those silly little rooms were meant for. And Nick must have seen the entrance hall when he came in. So she went straight across and pushed open the library door. 'Here you are.'

It took an effort not to wrinkle her nose. The library looked towards the waterfall and there was a steep bank outside the windows. The whole place was hopelessly damp. Clean of course – Mother nearly killed herself seeing to that – but musty and cold. And even Mother couldn't *quite* keep pace with the mould.

Nick smelt it too, of course. He looked faintly unhappy as he wandered off down the room, peering into alcoves and studying the book titles.

The room was pretty misery-making anyway. Everything but everything was patterned. Carved bookshelves, stained glass windows, panelled ceiling painted with flowers. And a huge, dark squiggly fireplace. *And* a row of hideous ornaments along the top of the bookcases. *And* complicated designs on the carpet and the curtains. *And* –

The whole thing chattered and gibbered at you like a cageful of quarrelling monkeys and it made Hannah's head ache. No rhyme or reason to it. Nothing useful about all that decoration. She could hardly bear to think what it must all have cost. Or how much they could have raised by selling it off.

Nick seemed to like it, though. He prowled round, making notes, turning ornaments upside down to read the marks on the bottom, fingering the books. The first time he pulled one out, he frowned and ran a finger over the leather cover. It left a dark line in the dusting of pale green mould.

Then he caught sight of the red leather boxes stacked on the last set of shelves.

'Those boxes- are they –I don't want to poke my nose in, of course, but if there are any papers –'

He sounded unbearably eager. Fancy being so keen to read someone else's old junk.

'They're mostly bills and letters,' Hannah said. 'All muddled up, I'm afraid. And I think there are some old photographs.'

'Letters? Photographs?' Nick blinked excitedly. 'Would it be very rude to ask-'

Hannah couldn't stand it any longer. 'Here.' She marched down the room, heaved a couple of boxes off the shelves and lumped them on to the big desk in the middle of the room. 'Look at them all you want. I should think they're utterly boring.'

'Don't worry. My family think I'm mad as well. My mother always says I was born with a notebook in one hand and a bundle of old bills in the other.'

Hannah grinned back. He looked as though he might be quite human. No reason why he shouldn't do something with those old papers, after all. It was pretty stupid having them clutter the place up if no one was ever going to look at them. She leaned over as he began to sort through the first box.

'Look- that photograph must be old. All the women have got long dressed and hats on.' Nick peered at it. 'Looks like a house party. It might be interesting to find out-'

But he never got to the end of the sentence. Footsteps clipped sharply across the hall and someone opened the library door. There was a tiny, startled pause. Exactly the right length. Then Mother's voice, ominously polite.

'Good afternoon. I didn't realize we had a visitor.'

1. Look at the second paragraph. (Lines 5-8) What is the first thing which strikes Hannah as she enters? (1 mark)

2. What sort of woman do you think Hannah's mother to be? (2 marks)

3. Look at lines 11 to 16. Explain what the library is like. Look to use your own words as much as possible. (4 marks)

4. In line 18, the author writes "Nick seemed to like it though." From your reading of the passage, why do you think Nick likes the library? (3 marks)

5. What do you think Hannah thinks of the library and the things in it? If you can, find two words or phrases which prove your point. (3 marks)

6. Read line 26. What question do you think Nick is trying to ask? (1 mark)

7. Looking at the words in the passage, explain what they mean:

   Pace (line 7)

   Faintly (line 9)

   Prowled (line 18)

   Heaved (line 27) (4 marks)

8. How do you think Nick and Hannah are feeling when her mother walks in? (2marks)

9. Continue the conversation between Hannah, her mother and Nick for approximately six more lines.

(4 marks)

Section B

Choose *one* of the following. Please make sure you check your work for errors.

- Write a short description or story with the title "The Dark House."
- Describe what your favourite room is like. This might be your bedroom or living room at home. It could be your favourite room at school or at someone else's house.

(25 marks)