CITY OF LONDON
FREEMEN'S SCHOOL

SAMPLE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION PAPER

For pupils currently in Year 7

ENGLISH

Name:	Age:	Year:

Time: 1 hour

Instructions:

1. Answer **all** the questions in Section **A**.
2. Answer **ONE** question from Section **B**.
3. You will be given marks for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4. You have 60 minutes for the exam. Spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.
5.

Section A	
Section B	
Total	

SSH	**S1014**	ENG

The writer of this passage, Helen Thayer, was the first woman to travel alone to the North Pole. Her sled (sledge) was pulled by a husky dog called Charlie.

Here Helen is getting ready to leave her camp.

I put my day's supply of food into my day food bag and then began to pack the tent. I was completely engrossed in pulling the freezing tent poles out of the ice, when suddenly I heard a deep, long growl coming from the depths of Charlie's throat. I looked at him and then in the direction in which he was staring. Even before I looked I knew what I would see. A polar bear!

It was a female followed by two cubs coming slowly, purposefully, plodding through the rough shore ice towards me. They were two hundred yards away. With a pounding heart I grabbed my loaded rifle and flare gun and carefully walked sideways a few steps to Charlie, who was snarling with a savagery that caught my breath. Without taking my eyes off the bear, I unclipped Charlie from his ice anchor and, again walking sideways, I led him to the sled where I clipped his chain to a tie-down rope.

The bear, now only 150 yards away, wasn't stopping. Her cubs had dropped back but she came on with a steady measured stride while I frantically tried to remember all the advice I had been given. Keep eye contact, move sideways or slightly forward, never backward, stay calm, don't show fear, stand beside a tent, sled, or other large object to make my five feet three inches appear as large as possible. Don't shoot unless forced to. Don't wound a bear, you'll make it even more dangerous, and never run. Repeating myself, "Stay calm, stay calm," I fired a warning shot to the bear's left. The loud explosion had no effect. On she came. I fired a flare, landing it a little to her right. Her head moved slightly in its direction but she didn't stop. I fired another flare, this time dropping it right in front of her. She stopped, looked at the flare burning a bright red on the white ice, then looked at me. She was only one hundred feet away now.

By this time my nerves were as tight as violin strings and my heart could have been heard at base camp. The bear began to step around the flare, and I dropped another flare two feet in front of her. Again she stopped, looked at the flare and at me. Then she fixed her tiny black eyes on Charlie, who was straining at the end of his chain, snapping and snarling trying to reach her. She looked back at her cubs. I could sense her concern about Charlie's snarling at the cubs. She waited for her cubs to catch up, then moved to my left in a half circle. I fired two more flares in quick succession, trying to draw a line between her and me. She stopped, then moved back towards my right. I fired two more flares and again she stopped. She seemed to want to cross the line of flares but was unsure of the

result and of Charlie, so she elected to stay back. She kept moving right in a half circle, still one hundred feet away. Finally, with a last look she plodded north with her two new cubs trotting behind her, their snow-white coats contrasting with their mother's creamy pale yellow colour.

The whole episode lasted fifteen minutes but seemed years long. My hands were shaking as I stood still holding my rifle and flare gun, watching the trio slowly move north. But in spite of the mind-numbing fear that still gripped me, I could feel deep down inside a real satisfaction. I now knew that I could stand up to a bear in the wild and stay calm enough to function. With Charlie's help I had passed my first test. The bear had been completely silent as it had approached and moved around me on paws thickly padded with the fur on the undersides. I was thankful for Charlie's warning. Now he had stopped growling and snarling but still stood rigid, watching the bears as they zigzagged in and out of the rough ice hunting for the seals that lived in the cold waters beneath the ice. He seemed to hardly notice the giant hug I gave him. He was still on guard.

The bears were only about four hundred yards away but I decided to continue packing my tent, still keeping a wary eye on the bears. I finished packing and stood around until ten o'clock, keeping warm, until I was sure the bears had disappeared and weren't circling back to me. As I started out I still thought about them. Even as frightened as I had been, it was a thrill to see a bear and her cubs in their natural environment. She was unafraid of me, powerful and dangerous, yet graceful. And she was a tender, attentive mother caring for her cubs.

From *Polar Dream* by Helen Thayer

Section A

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Spend more time on the questions which have the most marks.

1. Why is Helen Thayer surprised when Charlie growls?

_____

_____

_____

_____

2 marks

2. What has made the dog growl?

1 mark

3. In the second paragraph, what does Thayer do as the polar bears approach?

4 marks

4. Why do you think she moves sideways?

2 marks

5. Look carefully at lines 15-29. How does the writer make this section exciting?

6 marks

6. Explain the effectiveness of the simile in lines 30-31.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2 marks

7. Explain how the author feels in the last two paragraphs.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

8 marks

Total: 25 marks

Turn-over

Section B

Choose one of the following options:

a) Write about someone who is frightened or nervous but who tries to overcome these feelings.

b) Write a description of a wintry landscape.

c) Write a story that begins with the words "Outside my front door someone had left a large cardboard box..."

25 marks