The Junior King's School
Canterbury

2014

Year 7
Entrance Examination (12+)
English

One Hour

Section A	**Spelling, Punctuation, Vocabulary, Grammar**	**10 marks**	**10 minutes**
Section B	**Reading Comprehension**	**20 marks**	**30 minutes**
Section C	**Writing**	**20 marks**	**20 minutes**

PLEASE BE SURE TO ANSWER SECTION A ON THE QUESTION PAPER AND SECTIONS B & C ON SEPARATE SHEETS OF LINED PAPER

Read this passage carefully before attempting any of the questions in Sections A and B

A scorpion causes havoc

One day I found a fat female scorpion in the wall, wearing what at first glance appeared to be a pale fawn fur coat. Closer inspection proved that this strange garment was made up of a mass of tiny babies clinging to the mother's back. I was enraptured by this family, and I made up my mind to smuggle them into the house and up to my bedroom so that I might keep them and watch them grow up. With infinite care I manoeuvred the mother and family into a matchbox, and then hurried to the villa. It was rather unfortunate that just as I entered the door lunch should be served; however, I placed the matchbox carefully on the mantelpiece in the drawing-room, so that the scorpion should get plenty of air, and I made my way to the dining-room and joined the family for the meal. Dawdling over my food, feeding Roger surreptitiously under the table and listening to the family arguing, I completely forgot about my exciting new captures. At last Larry, having finished, fetched the cigarettes from the drawing-room, and lying back in his chair he put one in his mouth and picked up the matchbox he had brought. Oblivious of my impending doom I watched him interestedly as, still talking glibly, he opened the matchbox.

Now I maintain to this day that the female scorpion meant no harm. She was agitated and a trifle annoyed at being shut up in a matchbox for so long, and so she seized the first opportunity to escape. She hoisted herself out of the box with great rapidity, he babies clinging on desperately, and scuttled onto the back of Larry's hand. There, not quite certain what to do next, she paused, her sting curved up at the ready. Larry, feeling the movement of her claws, glanced down to see what it was, and from that moment things got increasingly confused.

He uttered a roar of fright that made Lugaretzia drop a plate and brought Roger out from beneath the table, barking wildly. With a flick of his hand he sent the unfortunate scorpion flying down the table, and she landed midway between Margo and Leslie, scattering babies like confetti as she thumped on the cloth. Thoroughly enraged at this treatment, the creature sped towards Leslie, her sting quivering with emotion. Leslie leapt to his feet, overturning his chair, and flicked out desperately with his napkin, sending the scorpion rolling across the cloth towards Margo, who promptly let out a scream that any railway engine would have been proud to produce.

From *'My Family and Other Animals'* by Gerald Durrell

Name: Date:

Part A – Spelling, Punctuation, Vocabulary and Grammar

Please answer all of the questions for this section **on this sheet**.

1) After lunch it is likely that Larry...

quarelled	quarrelled	quareled	quarreld

... with his brother. Circle the correct spelling above. (1 mark)

2) "I was **enraptured** by this family."

surprised	delighted	horrified	amused

Circle the word which is most similar in meaning to "enraptured" in this sentence. (1 mark)

3) Complete the following table by adding a synonym and antonym:

Word	Synonym	Antonym
annoyed	angry	pleased
surreptitiously		

(2 marks)

4) It was very...

irresponsable	irrisponsible	irresponsible	irresponsuble

... of the writer to keep a scorpion in a matchbox. Circle the correct spelling above. (1 mark)

5) "Leslie **leapt** to **his** feet, overturning his chair, and flicked out **desperately** with his napkin, sending the scorpion rolling **across** the cloth towards Margo."

Give the part of speech of each of these words as they are used in this sentence.

Word	Part of speech
leapt	
desperately	
his	
across	

(2 marks)

6) Semi-colons can be used to separate two main clauses that are related. Insert the correct punctuation into the boxes below, using at least one semi-colon.

On the one hand ☐ the scorpion incident is a funny anecdote ☐ on the other ☐ it is a serious warning about dangerous pets ☐ (2 marks)

7) Margo's scream was an...

appaling	apalling	appauling	appalling

...noise. Circle the correct spelling above. (1 mark)

Part B – Reading Comprehension

Please answer all of the questions for this section **on lined paper**. Ensure that you write your name and date at the top of your paper.

1) What did the writer find particularly interesting about the scorpion?

(2 marks)

2) Explain what happened to the scorpions from the time the writer brought them home.

(6 marks)

3) What three mistakes did the writer make in his handling of the scorpions and his family in this extract?

(3 marks)

4) How does the writer's attitude to the scorpions differ from his family's? Support your view with reference to the text.

(3 marks)

5) How does the writer make this incident so amusing? Be sure to quote from the passage to support your opinions.

(6 marks)

Part C - Writing Task

A wild animal has escaped from a local zoo! Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter covering this incident. Your task is to **write an article** for the local paper about what happened.

Think about:

- Interviewing the people who have seen it
- The reaction from the zoo
- The different theories as to how it may have escaped
- Describing the animal
- Using direct and reported speech
- Remember to include the *who*, *what*, *where*, *when* and *why*.

You may like to use the table below to help you to plan your writing

Headline	Opening Paragraph
Quotes from the zoo	Body of the article
Quotes from other bystanders	Other information

You have **20 minutes** to plan and write your article. You will be marked for your punctuation, text structure and use of good language.

Please write your newspaper report onto lined paper; remember to put your name and the date at the top.