ALDENHAM SCHOOL

13 + Entrance Paper

SAMPLE PAPER

English

Length of Examination – 60 minutes

Do not start until you are told to do so

Surname: …… School:……

- **Write on the lined paper provided**

Total Number of Marks: 40

Read the following passage taken from Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre and then answer the questions in Section A. Then move on to Section B.

Questions 1 to 4 should be answered in full sentences. Try to include as many details as you can.

'Jane Eyre' is a book that follows a young, orphaned girl as she grows up and encounters challenges and people that shape her life. This extract is from the beginning of the book, where Jane has been locked in the red room by her aunt Reed due to her bad behaviour.

In this extract, the story is first told by a third person narrator. However, Jane takes over the storytelling at the top of the next page.

The red-room was a square chamber, very seldom slept in, I might say never, indeed, unless when a chance visitation of visitors at Gateshead Hall made it necessary to turn to account all the accommodation it contained: yet it was one of the largest and stateliest chambers in the mansion. A bed supported on massive pillars of mahogany, hung with curtains of deep red damask[1], stood out like a tabernacle[2] in the centre; the two large windows, with their blinds always drawn down, were half shrouded in festoons[3] and falls of similar drapery; the carpet was red; the table at the foot of the bed was covered with a crimson cloth; the walls were a soft fawn colour with a blush of pink in it; the wardrobe, the toilet-table, the chairs were of darkly polished old mahogany. Out of these deep surrounding shades rose high, and glared white, the piled-up mattresses and pillows of the bed, spread with a snowy Marseilles counterpane.[4] Scarcely less prominent was an ample cushioned easy-chair near the head of the bed, also white, with a footstool before it; and looking, as I thought, like a pale throne.

This room was chill, because it seldom had a fire; it was silent, because remote from the nursery and kitchen; solemn, because it was known to be so seldom entered. The house-maid alone came here on Saturdays, to wipe from the mirrors and the furniture a week's quiet dust: and Mrs. Reed herself, at far intervals, visited it to review the contents of a certain secret drawer in the wardrobe, where were stored parchments, her jewel-casket, and a miniature of her deceased husband; and in those last words lies the secret of the red-room--the spell which kept it so lonely in spite of its grandeur.

Mr. Reed had been dead nine years: it was in this chamber he breathed his last; here he lay in state; hence his coffin was borne by the undertaker's men; and, since that day, a sense of dreary sanctification had guarded it from frequent intrusion.

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[1] A luxurious fabric
[2] A temple-like building
[3] Hung in a curve as decoration
[4] Bedspread

My seat, to which Bessie and the bitter Miss Abbot had left me riveted,[5] was a low ottoman near the marble chimney-piece; the bed rose before me; to my right hand there was the high, dark wardrobe, with subdued, broken reflections varying the gloss of its panels; to my left were the muffled windows; a great looking-glass between them repeated the vacant majesty of the bed and room. I was not quite sure whether they had locked the door; and when I dared move, I got up and went to see. Alas! yes: no jail was ever more secure. Returning, I had to cross before the looking-glass; my fascinated glance involuntarily explored the depth it revealed. All looked colder and darker in that visionary hollow than in reality: and the strange little figure there gazing at me, with a white face and arms specking the gloom, and glittering eyes of fear moving where all else was still, had the effect of a real spirit: I thought it like one of the tiny phantoms, half fairy, half imp, Bessie's evening stories represented as coming out of the isolated, fearful moors, and appearing before the eyes of belated travellers. I returned to my stool.

Superstition was with me at that moment; but it was not yet her hour for complete victory: my blood was still warm; the mood of the revolted slave was still bracing me with its bitter vigour; I had to stop a rapid rush of retrospective thought before I came back to the dismal present.

Section A ***Spend 30 minutes on this section.***

Comprehension questions

1) **Describe the red room in your own words, from the first paragraph.**

   (3 marks)

2) **What mood, tone and atmosphere are set up within the first three paragraphs of the passage? Support your answer with evidence from the text.**

   (5 marks)

3) **Explain the effect that these phrases have in the passage.**

- This room was chill, because it seldom had a fire; it was silent, because remote from the nursery and kitchen; solemn, because it was known to be so seldom entered.
- lies the secret of the red-room--the spell which kept it so lonely in spite of its grandeur.
- All looked colder and darker in that visionary hollow than in reality:
- Superstition was with me at that moment; but it was not yet her hour for complete victory: my blood was still warm

(8 marks)

[5] Fixed

4) Based on your reading of the passage, what do you think happens next? Write one paragraph, which continues Jane Eyre's experience in the red room.
(4 marks)

Section B ***Spend 30 minutes on this section***

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Choose one of the following ideas to write about.

Spend 5 minutes writing a plan for your work.

Underline after the plan before you begin your composition.

Check that you have:

- Punctuated correctly
- Used different and interesting verbs, adverbs and adjectives
- Included a variety of sentence structures
- Varied the length of your sentences
- Organised your writing into paragraphs
- Checked spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Used descriptive techniques such as similes and metaphors

1) **Write a descriptive piece in which you describe a time where you have been alone and scared. (20 marks)**
2) **Write a story with the title 'the remarkable discovery of the missing suitcase.' (20 marks)**