ELTHAM COLLEGE

13+ Entrance Examination

English

Name: …….

Time: 45 Minutes

Sea Rescue

The following text is from a recent newspaper report.

Explorers, or boys messing about? Either way taxpayer gets rescue bill.

Helicopter duo plucked from life-raft after Antarctic crash

Yesterday a new adventure undertaken by British explorers Steve Brooks and Quentin Smith almost led to tragedy when their helicopter plunged into the sea off Antarctica.

The men were plucked from the sea by a Chilean naval ship after a nine-hour rescue which began when Mr Brooks contacted his wife, Jo Vestey, on his satellite phone asking for assistance. The rescue involved the Royal Navy, the RAF and British Coastguards.

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The drama began at around 1am British time when Mr Brooks, 42, and 40-year-old Mr Smith, also known as Q, ditched into the sea 100 miles off Antarctica, about 36 miles off Smith Island, and scrambled into their life-raft.

Mr Brooks called his wife in London on his satellite phone. She said: "He said they were both in the life-raft but were okay and could I call the emergency people."

Meanwhile, distress signals were being beamed from the ditched helicopter and from Mr Brooks' Breitling emergency watch, a wedding present.

The signals from the aircraft were deciphered by Falmouth coastguard in England and passed on to the rescue co-ordination centre at RAF Kinloss in Scotland.

The Royal Navy's ice patrol ship, HMS Endurance, which was 180 miles away surveying uncharted waters, began steaming towards the scene and dispatched its two Lynx helicopters.

Task

Imagine you are one of the explorers. Write a descriptive account of your experience, starting when the helicopter lost power and ending with your rescue. Focus more on descriptive detail and less on telling a story.