13+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Sample Paper

SOLIHULL

2016

ENGLISH

13+ English Entrance Examination

Time allowed: 1 hour

Section A

Read the passage below then answer the questions that follow. It is worth fifty marks. You are advised to spend thirty minutes on this section.

The passage is taken from an adaptation of Bram Stoker's novel, *Dracula*. In this extract from a diary, Jonathan Harker, one of the characters in the novel, describes a strange encounter with Count Dracula. He is visiting Dracula's castle on business, but soon realises there is something strange about the man, and the castle.

8 May. – I began to fear as I wrote in this book, for there is something so strange about this place and all in it that I cannot but feel uneasy. I wish I were safe out of it or that I had never come here. It may be that this strange night existence may be telling on me; but would that were all! If there was anyone to talk to I could bear it, but there is no one. I have only the Count to speak with, and he! – I fear I am myself the only living soul within the place. Let me be factual – detail will help me bear up, and imagination must not run riot with me. If it does I am lost. Let me say at once how I stand – or seem to.

I only slept a few hours when I went to bed, and feeling that I could not sleep any more, got up. I had hung my shaving glass by the window and was just beginning to shave. Suddenly I felt a hand on my shoulder, and heard the Count's voice saying to me, "Good morning." I started, for it amazed me that I had not seen him, since the reflection of the glass covered the whole room behind me. In starting I had cut myself slightly, but did not notice it at the moment. Having answered the Count's salutation, I turned to the glass again to see how I had been mistaken. This time there could be no error, for the man was close to me, and I could see him over my shoulder. But there was no reflection of him in the mirror! The whole room behind me was displayed; but there was no sign of a man in it, except myself. This was startling, and coming on top of so many strange things, was beginning to increase that vague feeling of uneasiness which I always have when the Count is near but at that instant I saw that the cut had bled a little, and the blood was trickling over my chin. I laid down the razor, turning as I did so half-round to look for some sticking plaster. When the Count saw my face, his eyes blazed with a sort of demoniac fury, and he suddenly made a grab at my throat. I drew away, and his hand touched the string of beads which held my crucifix. It made an instant change in him, for the fury passed so quickly that I could hardly believe that it was ever there.

"Take care," he said, "take care how you cut yourself. It is more dangerous than you think in this country." Then seizing the shaving glass, he went on: "And this wretched thing that has done the mischief. It is a foul bauble of man's vanity. Away with it!" and opening the heavy window with one wrench of his terrible hand, he flung out the glass, which was shattered into a thousand pieces on the stones of the courtyard far below. Then he withdrew without a word.

When I went into the drawing room, breakfast was prepared; but I could not find the Count anywhere. So I breakfasted alone. It is strange that as yet I have not seen the Count eat or drink. He must be a very peculiar man! After breakfast I did a little exploring in the castle. I went out on the stairs and found a room looking toward the south. The view was magnificent, and from where I stood there was every opportunity of seeing it. The castle is on the very edge of a terrible precipice. A stone falling from the window would fall a thousand feet without touching anything! As far as the eye can reach is a sea of green tree-tops, with occasionally a deep rift where there is a chasm. Here and there are silver threads where the rivers wind in deep gorges through the forests. But I am not in heart to describe beauty, for when I had seen the view I explored further; doors, doors, doors everywhere, and all locked and bolted. In no place except from the windows in the castle walls is there an available exit.

The castle seems to me a prison, and I am its prisoner!!

Questions:

1. The story was written over a hundred years ago. From the first paragraph, list any words or phrases that suggests this. (3)

2. Describe the tone of the narrator in the first paragraph. Which words or phrases suggest this? (3)

3. Copy the word that best matches the meaning of 'salutation' as it is used in the passage.

   greeting introduction request response (1)

4. Why is Harker so startled when the Count touches his shoulder and speaks to him? (4)

5. What makes the following sentence such an effective one: "When the Count saw my face, his eyes blazed with a sort of demoniac fury, and he suddenly made a grab at my throat"? (4)

6. What do we learn about the character and appearance of the Count in this extract? (10)

7. What literary technique has been used in the following phrase: "As far as the eye can reach is a sea of green tree tops"? Explain your choice. (3)

8. Using information from the passage, describe the location of the castle and the view from its windows. (4)

9. Is the narrative written from the first or third person perspective? What effect does this have on the reader? (3)

10. How does the writer create the impression that Harker is having a terrible experience that will probably become worse? Use quotations, as well as your own words, to support your answer.

    In your answer, you should consider the following:

    - The feelings that Harker tries to explain and write down;
    - The things that happen to him;
    - The character of the Count;
    - Where the story is taking place. (15)

Section B

Choose **one** of the following tasks. **Write your answer on a clean sheet of paper. Make sure your candidate number is written on the top.** You will be rewarded for making your writing interesting. There are forty marks available for this section. You are advised to spend thirty minutes on this section.

Either:

1. Write an account of a time when you felt scared. It can be fictional or factual.

Or:

2. Write an opening chapter to a mystery story entitled, *Trapped.*

Or:

3. Write a description based upon the photograph below, which is of Neuschwanstein Castle, a royal palace in the Bavarian Alps of Germany.



Or:

4. Write a description based upon the photograph below, taken from the 1931 film '*Dracula*'.

