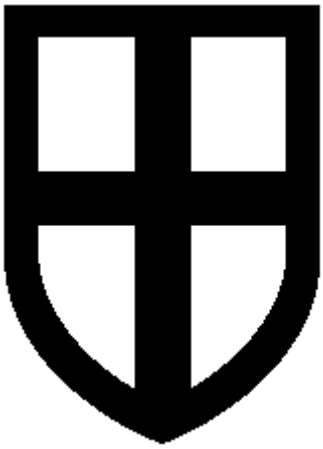
Full name:
School:

St George's College



English 13+ Scholarship Exam

SAMPLE PAPER

Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes

This paper has three sections:
Section A – Prose Comprehension (spend 35 minutes on this)
Section B – Poetry Comprehension (spend 25 minutes on this)
Section C – Narrative Writing (spend 30 minutes on this)

Answer all three sections. Please write your name and your current school at the top of this booklet and on each page of A4 you use.

You are not allowed a dictionary or thesaurus in this examination.

Remember that your work will be expected to show correct punctuation, use of paragraphs and accurate spelling. Your handwriting should be clear.

SECTION A

Read the extract from *Jasper Jones* by Craig Silvey and the poem by Stephen Spender, then answer the questions below.

This book is set in a small town in Australia during a very hot summer.

Jasper Jones has come to my window.

I don't know why, but he has. Maybe he's in trouble. Maybe he doesn't have any where else to go. Either way, he's just frightened the living daylights out of me.

This is the hottest summer I can remember, and the thick heat seems to seep in and take up residence in my bedroom. It's like the earth's core in here. The only relief comes from the cooler air that creeps in between the slim slats of my single window. It's near impossible to sleep, so I've spent most of my nights reading by the light of my kerosene lamp.

Tonight was no different. And when Jasper Jones rapped my shutters abruptly with his knuckle and hissed my name, I leapt from my bed, spilling my copy of *Huckleberry Finn.*

'Charlie! *Charlie!*'

I knelt like a sprinter, alert and fearful.

'Who is it?'

'Charlie! Come out here!'

'Who *is* it?'

'It's Jasper!'

'What? Who?'

'Jasper. *Jasper!*' and he pressed his face right up into the light, his eyes green and wild. I squinted.

'What? *Really?* What is it?'

'I need your help. Just come out here and I'll explain,' he whispered.

And so he's here. Jasper Jones is at my window.

Shaken, I clamber out of bed, quietly kick into a pair of jeans and squeeze headfirst through the window. This is the first time I've ever dared to sneak out at night. The thrill of this, coupled with the fact that Jasper Jones needs *my* help, already fills the moment with something portentous.

'Follow me!'

I walk behind. His sureness and his presence make him easy to follow. I'm still afraid, of course, but something about being in his bubble is reassuring. I trust him, straight up, though I have no reason to, and it makes me one of very few.

Jasper Jones has a terrible reputation in Corrigan. He's a thief, a liar, a thug, a truant. He's lazy and unreliable. He's a feral boy and an orphan, or as good as. His mother is dead and his father is no good. He's the rotten model that parents hold up as a warning: "You'll end up like Jasper Jones!"

He's the first name to be blamed for all manner of trouble. Whatever the misdemeanour and no matter how clear their own child's guilt, parents ask immediately: 'Were you with Jasper Jones?' And of course, more often than not, their children will lie. They nod, because Jasper's involvement instantly absolves them. It means they've been led astray. They've been waylaid by the devil. And so, as the cases are closed, the message is simple: *Stay away from Jasper Jones.*

We walk for an age, but I don't ask questions. Jasper turns, rests his hip on a gatepost and lights a cigarette. I look past him and recognise where we are. Here, ghostly in the moonlight, slumps the weatherworn cottage of Mad Jack. No child has actually laid eyes on him. But the tall stories and rumours all weave wispily round one single irrefutable fact: that Jack killed a young woman some years ago, and he's never been seen outside the house since.

Questions on the passage:

1) What was Charlie doing when Jasper Jones came to his window?

(1 mark)

2) Line 11 reads: "I knelt like a sprinter, alert and fearful." Explain in your own words what this tells us about Charlie's state of mind.

(2 marks)

3) Line 28 says "something about being in his bubble is reassuring." Explain what you think this means and what this tells us about Charlie's attitude to Jasper?

(3 marks)

4) Express in your own words as far as possible what the people of Corrigan feel about Jasper? Then, with reference to the passage, explain whether you think Charlie agrees or disagrees with this view.

(5 marks)

5) In lines 39-41 Mad Jack and his cottage are described. Read the lines very carefully and then comment on the way Craig Silvey uses language to create a distinctive impression.

(5 marks)

6) Select any two powerful words from the passage that you have not discussed in another question and comment on their specific effects.

(4 marks)

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

Please turn over

SECTION B

My Parents Kept Me... by Stephen Spender

My parents kept me from children who were rough
and who threw words like stones and who wore torn clothes.
Their thighs showed through rags. They ran in the street
And climbed cliffs and stripped by the country streams.

I feared more than tigers their muscles like iron
And their jerking hands and their knees tight on my arms.
I feared the salt coarse pointing of those boys
Who copied my lisp behind me on the road.

They were lithe, they sprang out behind hedges
Like dogs to bark at our world. They threw mud
And I looked another way, pretending to smile.
I longed to forgive them, yet they never smiled.

Questions on the poem:

1) In your own words describe the rough children and how they behaved.
(5 marks)

2) What do the following two similes suggest about the children and the poet's relationship -"like dogs to bark at our world" and "threw words like stones"?
(5 marks)

3) "The poet, Stephen Spender, does not just fear these children but seems to envy them as well." By using evidence from the poem to back your views, how far do you agree with this statement?
(5 marks)

4) Comment on the structure of the poem – stanzas/verses; rhyme; metre; line length; punctuation – and the effects you think are created by it being written in this way.
(5 marks)

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

Please turn over

SECTION C

In this section pay particular attention to the quality and accuracy of your writing.

The Outcast.

Write a story entitled 'The Outcast' about a character who is seen as different from his or her community. He or she may, like Jasper Jones and Mad Jack, have a bad reputation or may simply be misunderstood.

Decide whether your character should remain an outcast by the end of your story or should be accepted back into the community.

You will be marked on:

- the content of your description: this includes your vocabulary choices and any descriptive techniques you use

[15 marks]

- the style and accuracy of your writing: this includes your spelling, punctuation, grammar and paragraphing

[15 marks]

[SECTION C TOTAL: 30 Marks]

[TOTAL FOR PAPER: 70 MARKS]