The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School
Elstree, Herts

13+ Entrance Examination 2015

ENGLISH

Time: One hour and 10 minutes

Please follow these instructions

There are two parts to this examination:

- **Part 1** tests your **Reading**
(**40 minutes, including 10 minutes reading time**)
- **Part 2** tests your **Writing** (**30 minutes**)
- Put your name and examination number at the top of each new sheet of paper you use.
- Write in ink.
- Begin Part 2 (the Writing Exercise) on a **new sheet** of paper.
- Do not take this question paper away.

PART 1 READING EXERCISE

Spend <u>ten minutes</u> at the start of the examination reading the following passage carefully. You can underline / highlight / annotate the passage in this time. Then spend <u>thirty minutes</u> answering the questions opposite.

The following passage is an extract from the novel King Solomon's Mines by H. Rider Haggard. It is an account of the death of José *Silvestre, and leads to the discovery of a secret map.*

"A week passed, and I got the better of my fever. One evening I was sitting on the ground in front of the little tent I had with me, chewing the last leg of a miserable fowl I had bought from a native for a bit of cloth worth twenty fowls, and staring at the hot red sun sinking down over the desert, when suddenly I saw a figure, apparently that of a European, for it wore a coat, on the slope of the rising ground opposite to me, about three hundred yards away. The figure crept along on its hands and knees, then it got up and staggered along a few yards on its legs, only to fall and crawl again. Seeing that it must be somebody in distress, I sent one of my hunters to help him, and presently he arrived, and who do you suppose it turned out to be?"

"José Silvestre, of course," said Captain Good.

"Yes, José Silvestre, or rather his skeleton and a little skin. His face was bright yellow with bilious fever, and his large, dark eyes stood nearly out of his head, for all the flesh had gone. There was nothing but yellow parchment-like skin, white hair, and the gaunt bones sticking up beneath.

"'Water! for the sake of Christ, water!' he moaned. I saw that his lips were cracked, and his tongue, which protruded between them, was swollen and blackish.

"I gave him water with a little milk in it, and he drank it in great gulps, two quarts or so, without stopping. I would not let him have any more. Then the fever took him again, and he fell down and began to rave about Suliman's Mountains, and the diamonds, and the desert. I took him into the tent and did what I could for him, which was little enough; but I saw how it must end. About eleven o'clock he got quieter, and I lay down for a little rest and went to sleep. At dawn I woke again, and in the half light saw Silvestre sitting up, a strange, gaunt form, and gazing out towards the desert. Presently the first ray of the sun shot right across the wide plain before us till it reached the faraway crest of one of the tallest of the Suliman Mountains more than a hundred miles away.

"'There it is!' cried the dying man in Portuguese, stretching out his long, thin arm, 'but I shall never reach it, never. No one will ever reach it!'

"Suddenly he paused, and seemed to take a resolution. 'Friend,' he said, turning towards me, 'are you there? My eyes grow dark.'

"'Yes,' I said; 'yes, lie down now, and rest.'

"'Ay,' he answered, 'I shall rest soon, I have time to rest — all eternity. Listen, I am dying! You have been good to me. I will give you the paper. Perhaps you will get there if you can live through the desert, which has killed my poor servant and me.'

"Then he groped in his shirt and brought out what I thought was a Boer tobacco pouch made of the skin of the Swart-vet-pens or sable antelope. It was fastened with a little strip of hide, what we call a rimpi, and this he tried to loose, but could not. He handed it to me. 'Untie it,' he said. I did so, and extracted a bit of torn yellow linen on which something was written in rusty letters.

QUESTIONS (50 marks)

Answers for the first five questions do not require full sentences.

1. Find an alternative word for *fowl* (line 3) (2 marks)

2. Find two pieces of evidence in the first paragraph that suggest this is a difficult place to live. (4 marks)

3. What does the word *bilious* (line 13) mean? (2 marks)

4. Identify a word or short phrase in the first four lines that suggests the narrator is despondent. (2 marks)

5. Note down two short phrases that suggest that José Silvestre looks unwell. (4 marks)

Answers for the remaining questions (except Q10) should be in full sentences.

6. What does the narrator mean by 'I saw how it must end' (line 23)? (4 marks)

7. In which country do you think this novel is set? Be sure to justify your answer. (4 marks)

8. The passage is narrated by Allan Quartermain. How does Rider Haggard involve him in the action and what is the impact of this on the reader? (6 marks)

9. Write a paragraph examining the ways in which Rider Haggard presents the character of José Silvestre. Support your response with textual quotations. (6 marks)

10. From the context of the final paragraph, define the following words:
    a) extracted (1 mark)
    b) rimpi (2 marks)
    c) loose (2 marks)
    d) sable (3 marks)

11. "'There it is!' cried the dying man in Portuguese, stretching out his long, thin arm, 'but I shall never reach it, never. No one will ever reach it!'

    Write a paragraph examining how Rider Haggard encourages us to read on. (8 marks)

PART 2 WRITING EXERCISE – 30 minutes

PLEASE START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER. PUT YOUR NAME AND EXAM NUMBER AT THE TOP.

Write as accurately and as interestingly as you can using the following title:

The Secret Map

(50 marks)

END OF EXAMINATION

Remember to check that you have written your name and examination number on each sheet of paper that you have used.