Independent Schools Examinations Board

COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AT 13+

ENGLISH

LEVEL 2

PAPER 1

Monday 27 January 2014

Please read this information before the examination starts.

- You have 1 hour 15 minutes which includes reading and note-making time.
- The paper is divided into two sections.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Remember to write **Level 2** at the top of your answer page.
- Vocabulary, spelling, grammar, punctuation and presentation are important and will be taken into account.

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LEVEL 2

SECTION A: LITERARY PROSE

Read the passage below entitled* Dark Matter *and then answer all the questions which follow, using complete sentences.

The marks at the end of each question are a guide as to how much you should write in your answers.

Dark Matter

In this extract the narrator is working at a research centre in the Arctic. He has set out through the snow to explore this remote land when the weather suddenly turns bad and his dogs run off.

The bear post is a wooden post set in a pile of stones used to distract wild bears and prevent them from attacking the human settlement nearby.

In my wanderings I'd strayed a long way off course, and had fetched up at the eastern end of the bay, under the cliffs. Sagging with relief and ashamed of my panic, I turned my back on the cliffs and started along the shore, keeping close to the water for fear of losing myself again.

The humped bulk of the emergency storehouse loomed out of the fog. Then the whale bones, glittering in the beam of my headlamp. At last I made out the bear post – and beyond it the miraculous glimmer of the lantern over the porch.

I shouted for the dogs. 'Upik! Pakomi! Anardark! Eli! Isaak!'

No response. But that was OK; they'd come back when they were hungry. Eagerly, I hurried on.

As I approached the bear post, my headlamp lit the cairn of rocks at its base, where a tuft of dead grass poked through the snow. The light touched the weathered grey wood of the post. Fog had darkened the blotchy stains to black.

The dread came from nowhere. Without warning, my flesh began to crawl. I felt the hairs on my scalp prickle and rise. I couldn't see anything except the bear post and its cairn of stones, but my body braced itself. It knew.

Then, through the fog on the other side of the post, came an odd, muffled scraping. A sound as of metal dragged over rock.

Jerkily I turned, the beam of my headlamp sweeping the fog. I saw nothing. And yet that sound was louder, more distinct. Clink. Clink. Coming closer. Towards me.

My heart hammered in my throat. I tried to run. My legs wouldn't move.

It was in front of me now, the sound only a few feet away – and still I saw nothing. This can't be. But I hear it.

Clink. Clink.

Silence.

It had reached the post. It was so close that if I could have moved, I might have reached out my hand and touched – what? A presence. Unseen. Unbearably close.

I stood helpless, not breathing, my arms clamped to my sides. Dread rising within me, a black tide drowning…

Behind me, the patter of paws.

With a moan I broke free. I staggered back. My snow shoes crossed. I fell.

Isaak ran into the beam of my headlamp and stopped. Ears pricked, tail tautly raised. His eyes gleamed silver, throwing back my light.

As I got to my knees, he came towards me, lashing his tail. In his silvered eyes I saw the twin reflections of a dark round head.

It took a moment to recognise myself.

1. Look carefully at lines 1 to 4.
   Using your own words as far as possible, explain how the narrator feels now he is back in the bay. (2)

2. Look again at lines 5 to 13.
   How can you tell that it is difficult to see?
   Use quotations to support your ideas. (4)

3. Look carefully at lines 14 to 16.
   The narrator is suddenly filled with a feeling of dread.
   How does the writer make this feeling vivid? (4)

4. (a) Look carefully at lines 17 to 29.
   How does the writer create tension and suspense in these lines?
   Refer closely to the passage to support your ideas. (6)

   (b) Look carefully at lines 30 to 36.
   How effective is the end of this extract?
   Refer closely to the passage to support your response. (4)

5. Referring to the extract as a whole, what impressions have you formed of the narrator?
   Use quotations to support your ideas. (5)

(25)

SECTION B: WRITING TASK

Write on any ONE of the following topics.

Each one is worth 25 marks.

Credit will be given for good spelling, punctuation and presentation as well as for a range of appropriate vocabulary.

1. Skiing, Climbing, Sky Diving, Bungee Jumping …

   Write an article for your school magazine about dangerous sports.

   You may wish to write about:

   - the different kinds of dangerous sports
   - the attractions
   - the risks and drawbacks

2. Write a diary entry about a time when you felt very alone.

   Describe this time as vividly as you can.

3. We are what we eat.

   Write a speech for your class which explores what you like to eat and drink and what this says about you.

4. **EITHER**

   (a) Reading allows you to travel to places you could never hope to visit in real life.

   Write about a book which has allowed you to do this.

   Explain what you learnt about this place, real or imagined, and what it added to your enjoyment of the book as a whole.

   OR

   (b) Write about a character from a story you have read with whom you felt a close connection.

   Explain why you felt so close to your chosen character and what this added to your understanding and enjoyment of the story.

(Total marks: 50)

The extract from *Dark Matter* by Michelle Paver is reproduced with kind permission of The Orion Publishing Group, London, © Michelle Paver 2010.

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ENGLISH

LEVELS 1 AND 2

MARK SCHEME

This is a suggested, not a prescriptive, mark scheme.

Spring 2014

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Q.	Answer	Mark	Additional Guidance
6.	*possible ideas include:* nervous individual/not very confident/easily frightened: 'Sagging with relief'/'for fear of losing myself again'/'Jerkily'/'My heart hammered in my throat' determined: 'ashamed of my panic' caring, friendly, patient: 'I shouted for the dogs … No response. But that was OK.' observant, precise: 'a tuft of dead grass poked through the snow' sensible, logical: 'This can't be. But I hear it.' sensitive: 'A presence. Unseen.' easily confused: 'It took a moment to recognise myself'	**5**	reward answers which refer closely to the text
Total		**25**	

PAPER 1

SECTION A: LITERARY PROSE

LEVEL 2

Q.	Answer	Mark	Additional Guidance
1.	'relief' – glad to be back in the bay/not as scared 'ashamed of my panic' – embarrassed that he had been so scared	**2**	1 mark for each some attempt to use own words for full marks
2.	*possible quotations include:* 'humped bulk' 'loomed out of the fog' 'At last I made out' 'glimmer' 'Fog had darkened the blotchy stains to black'	**4**	at least two quotations for full marks reward clarity of explanation

Q.	Answer	Mark	Additional Guidance
3.	*possible answers include:* use of short sentences: 'The dread came from nowhere.'/'It knew.' description of sensations: 'flesh began to crawl … scalp prickle …' personification: 'my body braced itself. It knew.' alliteration: 'Without warning … body braced …'	**4**	four brief points or two more detailed ideas reward answers which show an awareness of the writer's use of language
4. (a)	*possible ideas include:* use of commas/pauses: 'Then, through the fog on the other side of the post,' use of minor sentences/non-sentences: 'A sound as of metal dragged over rock.'/'Coming closer.'/'Towards me.' use of unidentified sounds: 'muffled scraping … dragged … Clink. Clink.' metaphor/alliteration: 'heart hammered.' hard alliteration: 'Clink. Clink. Coming closer.' narrator's immobility: 'legs wouldn't move.' use of short, one-line paragraphs: 'Clink. Clink.'/'Silence.' repetition: 'Clink. Clink … Clink. Clink.' the unknown: 'A presence. Unseen.' use of question: 'what?'	**6**	2 marks for each point supported by a relevant quotation, or fewer points explored in more detail reward answers which show an awareness of the writer's use of language

Q.	Answer	Mark	Additional Guidance
(b)	*possible answers include:* anticlimax (narrator's fear and dog's arrival lead to nothing) bathos ('I fell.') tension in dog's reaction ('Ears pricked, tail tautly raised.' '... lashing his tail.') leading to released tension ('... recognise myself.') anticlimax (narrator thinks he sees a strange head but then realises it is his own reflection) makes reader wonder if he has imagined whole thing	**4**	reward any sensible idea mark on merit
5.	*possible ideas include:* nervous individual/not very confident/easily frightened: 'Sagging with relief'/'for fear of losing myself again'/'Jerkily'/'My heart hammered in my throat' determined: 'ashamed of my panic' caring, friendly, patient: 'I shouted for the dogs … No response. But that was OK.' observant, precise: 'a tuft of dead grass poked through the snow' sensible, logical: 'This can't be. But I hear it.' sensitive: 'A presence. Unseen.' easily confused: 'It took a moment to recognise myself'	**5**	1 mark for each brief point, or up to 2 marks for more detailed ideas reward answers which refer closely to the text
Total		**25**	