Independent Schools Examinations Board

COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AT 13+

ENGLISH

LEVEL 2

PAPER 1

Monday 3 November 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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SECTION A: LITERARY PROSE

Read the passage below and then answer all the questions opposite, using complete sentences.

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

The following extract is taken from The Secret River *by Kate Grenville. The novel is set in the 19th century in Australia. Sal and her husband have recently emigrated from England.*

Out on Sydney Cove pulling an oar, Thornhill could imagine himself back on the Thames, but Sal could never for a moment stop seeing the differences between that place and this. She was astonished every time at the rain, no gentle drizzle that misted everything over soft and grey, but lightning and thunder loud as cannon-fire, and water hurling itself down hard out of the sky, trying to make holes in the ground. *By God, Will,* she would say, *have you ever seen anything like it?* And by the livid shocks of lightning he would see her eyes wide, as if at a circus where some trick was being performed.

Their hut swarmed with creatures they had never seen before: bold lizards that eyed them unblinkingly, sticky black flies, lines of ants that could reduce a lump of sugar to nothing in a night, mosquitoes that could sting through cloth, creatures along the lines of bedbugs that buried their heads in skin and swelled with human blood. Sal learned from their neighbours how to deal with them, setting the legs of the table in dishes of water against the ants, hanging switches of pungent leaves at the doorway to discourage the flies. Against the blood-suckers and the nits she cut the children's hair. Having no scissors, she used the knife so Willie's ears stuck cruelly out of his close-cropped head, the knife-hacked hair standing up in tufts. With his thatch of feathery hair gone, Dick's neck looked as fragile as a twig.

She was inclined to take it personally about the trees, wondering aloud that they did not know enough to be green, the way a tree should be, but a washed-out silvery grey so they always looked half dead. Nor were they a proper shape, oak shape or elm shape, but were tortured formless things, holding out sprays of leaves on the ends of bare spindly branches that gave no more protection from the sun than shifting veils of shadow. Instead of dropping their leaves they cast off their bark so it dangled among the branches like dirty rags. In every direction that the eye travelled from the settlement all it could see were the immense bulges and distances of that grey-green forest. There was something about its tangle that seemed to make the eye blind, searching for pattern and finding none. It was exhausting to look at: different everywhere, and yet everywhere the same.

When the hot weather came – confusingly, at Christmas – it was like no hot weather they had ever known. The sun rose up into a sky wan with heat and hung there pouring brassy light down on everything through the whole endless day, a burden on the shoulders, until it slipped behind the mountains to the west. There were no slow twilit evenings. Darkness came down sudden and absolute.

The extract from *The Secret River* by Kate Grenville is reproduced by kind permission of Canongate Books ©

1. What is the full name of Sal's husband? (2)

2. Re-read lines 3–5.
Explain in your own words what 'astonished' Sal. (3)

3. (a) In your own words, explain what Sal dislikes about:

(i) the lizards

(ii) the ants

(iii) the mosquitoes and bedbugs (3)

(b) Re-read lines 14–16.
What are the effects on the children of having their hair cut with a knife? (3)

4. (a) Explain what is meant by describing the trees as 'tortured formless things' (line 20). (4)

(b) Explain what is meant by describing the landscape as 'different everywhere, and yet everywhere the same' (line 26). (4)

5. Sal writes home to her family, expressing her feelings about life in Australia so far.
Write her letter. (6)

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

(Total marks for this section: 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 the appropriate use of a wide range of vocabulary.

1. You are about to move on to senior school. You have been asked by your current school to give advice to some of the younger years in an end-of-term speech. Write your speech.

   You might want to include advice about:

   – practical things you have learned which they might find useful
   – how to cope with work
   – things you wish you had known at their age
   – things to make the most of
   – things to avoid

2. You have just been to a friend's birthday party, and it was an absolute disaster.

   Write him/her a letter, expressing your thanks for the party, and explaining how much fun you had.

   You don't want to hurt his/her feelings, so you need to sound convincing.

3. 'You never outgrow your favourite toys.'

   Do you find this to be true?

   Write an article for a student magazine in which you discuss your own experience.

4. **EITHER**

   (a) Write about some of the things you have discovered, either about the world or about yourself, from your reading.

   Use examples.

   You may refer to as many texts as you wish.

   OR

   (b) 'It doesn't matter whether a book is fantasy, horror, adventure, or historical; what matters is the main character.'

   Write about your own reading in the light of this comment.

   Use examples.

(Total marks: 50)

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ENGLISH

LEVELS 1 AND 2

MARK SCHEME

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

Autumn 2014

Please note that there is no mark scheme for Section B.

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PAPER 1

SECTION A: LITERARY PROSE

LEVEL 2

Q.	Answer	Mark	Additional Guidance
1.	Will Thornhill	**2**	must contain both parts of the name for 2 marks
2.	the weather is very different the rain is much heavier the thunder is much louder	**3**	1 mark for each point
3. (a) (i)	*the lizards:* they are fearless, they stare at her	**3**	1 mark each
(ii)	*the ants:* they eat her food/sugar		
(iii)	*the mosquitoes and bedbugs:* they bite		question (iii) requires candidates to identify what is common to both creatures; no mark if they fail to do this
(b)	it makes Willie's ears stick out it makes Willie's hair stand up in tufts it makes Dick's neck look skinny, liable to snap	**3**	
4. (a)	*tortured:* they look twisted, as if they have been physically/violently bent out of shape; they look as if they are in pain *formless:* having no discernible or regular shape; perhaps therefore looking somewhat alien	**4**	1 mark each for a basic explanation, plus 1 extra mark each if well explained
(b)	different from what Sal is used to never settling into a pattern yet monotonous in having no fixed shapes or colour	**4**	1 mark for each point, up to 4 marks, or fewer points well explained

Q.	Answer	Mark	Additional Guidance
5.		6	answers must address Sal's probable feelings best answers (4 marks or above) must include reference to Sal's feeling of alienation
Total		**25**	

PAPER 2

SECTION A: POETRY

LEVEL 2

Q.	Answer	Mark	Additional Guidance
1.	sounds as though someone is talking exclamation showing emotion, e.g. awe	2	1 mark for each point
2.	alliteration onomatopoeia personification	4	1 mark for technique and 1 mark for explanation
3.	'the old look' has gone more modern closer to the machine than to the soil life is easier for him less considerate towards animals and countryside does not notice the sun rather full of himself	6	1 mark for each point – up to 6 marks
4.	confident/proud powerful 'a great man' 'the knight at arms'	6	up to 3 marks for points supported by examples from the poem
5.	destroys the peace and quiet frightens wildlife/sends it running away countryside can no longer communicate with him	3	1 mark for each point
6.	the key words to be explained are 'kindling' and 'runs his engine on a different fuel'	4	2 marks for an explanation of the sun's effect on the hedges 2 marks for explaining that Cynddylan is no longer in tune with nature
Total		25	