OUNDLE
School

2017 Non Common Entrance

Third Form Entry

English

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- **Dictionaries are not allowed.**
- Answer on lined paper. Clearly mark your name at the top of each sheet of paper you use.
- Answer ALL the questions in Section A. Answer ONE question from Section B. **You should divide your time equally between both sections.**
- You are expected to write clearly and accurately in your answers. Write in full sentences. You should leave some time towards the end of the examination to check your work carefully.
- The maximum number of marks for this paper is 50.

Section A: Comprehension

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

In this passage, the writer describes how, as a young boy, his fascination with scorpions caused panic in his family. Read the passage and then answer the questions that follow.

The crumbling wall that surrounded the sunken garden alongside the house in Greece was a rich hunting ground for me. It was an ancient brick wall that had been plastered over, but now the whole surface was an intricate map of cracks. There was a whole landscape on this wall if you peered closely enough to see it; the roofs of a hundred tiny toadstools, like villages on the damper portions; mountains of bottle-green moss; forests of small ferns drooping languidly like little green fountains. The top of the wall was a desert land, too dry for anything except a few rust-red mosses to live in it. At the base of the wall was a pile of broken and chipped roof tiles.

The inhabitants of the wall were a mixed lot, but the shyest of the wall community were the most dangerous. Under a piece of the loose plaster there would be a little black scorpion an inch long, looking as though he were made out of polished chocolate. They were weird-looking things, with their neat, crooked legs and the tail like a string of brown beads ending in a poisonous sting like a rose-thorn. I grew very fond of these scorpions. Provided you did nothing silly or clumsy (like putting your hand on one) the scorpions treated you with respect, their one desire being to get away and hide as quickly as possible.

One day I found a fat female scorpion in the wall, wearing what at first glance appeared to be a pale fawn fur coat. Closer inspection proved that this strange garment was made up of a mass of tiny babies clinging to the mother's back. I was enraptured by this family, and I made up my mind to smuggle them into the house. With infinite care I manoeuvred the mother and family into a matchbox, and then hurried home. Just as I entered the door, lunch was served; so, I placed the matchbox carefully on the mantelpiece in the drawing-room, and made my way into the dining room and joined the family for a meal. My elder brother Larry, having finished his meal, fetched his cigarettes and the matchbox from the drawing room, and lying back in the chair he put one in his mouth. Oblivious of my impending doom I watched him interestedly as he opened the matchbox.

Now I maintain to this day that the female scorpion meant no harm. She was agitated and a trifle annoyed at being shut up in a matchbox for so long. She hoisted herself out of the box with great rapidity, her babies clinging on desperately, and scuttled on the back of Larry's hand. There, not quite certain what to do next, she paused, her sting curved up at the ready. Larry, feeling the movement of her claws, glanced down to see what it was.

He uttered a roar of fright that made the maid drop a plate and brought Roger, the dog, from beneath the table, barking wildly. With a flick of his hand Larry sent the unfortunate scorpion flying down the table, and she landed midway between Margo and Leslie, scattering babies like confetti. Thoroughly enraged at this treatment, the

creature sped towards Leslie, her sting quivering with emotion. Leslie leapt to his feet and flicked out desperately with his napkin, sending the scorpion rolling across the cloth towards Margo, who promptly let out a scream that any railway engine would have been proud to produce. Mother, completely bewildered, put on her glasses and peered down the table to see what was causing the pandemonium, and at that moment Margo, in a vain attempt to stop the scorpion's advance, hurled a glass of water at it. The shower missed the animal completely, but successfully drenched Mother. The scorpion had now gone to ground under Leslie's plate, while her babies swarmed wildly over all the table. Roger, mystified by the panic, but determined to do his share, ran round and round the room, barking hysterically.

1. Reread the first paragraph (lines 1-8). Explain the use and effect of imagery in this paragraph.

(4 marks)

2. Look again at the second paragraph (lines 9-16). Comment on the effectiveness of any two comparisons that the writer uses to describe the scorpions in this section of the passage.

(4 marks)

3. Explain what the following words mean, as they are used in the passage. You do not need to write in full sentences.

a) 'intricate' (line 3)
b) 'languidly' (line 6)
c) 'enraptured' (line 20)
d) 'impending' (line 26)
e) 'pandemonium' (line 42)

(1 mark each)

3. In the last paragraph (lines 34-47), the writer creates a vivid picture of the panic which ensues as the scorpion is flicked across the table. How does he achieve this?

(6 marks)

4. Looking at the passage as a whole, what do we learn about the narrator from what he does and how he describes things?

(6 marks)

(Total: 25 marks)

TURN OVER

Section B: Composition

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

Answer ONE of the following questions. You are reminded of the importance of clear and accurate written English and of careful presentation in your answers. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Describe an occasion in your life when something very unexpected happened. Write in a way that creates a clear picture of what happened in the reader's mind.

(25 marks)

2. 'At the base of the wall was a pile of broken and chipped roof tiles.' Write a story that begins with these words.

(25 marks)

3. 'Looking after animals.' Use this title as EITHER:

   a) the headline for an article for a teenage magazine

   OR

   b) a speech to present to your school assembly.

(25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS