

MID PROGRAMME ENTRIES 2016

Year 3

ENGLISH

Time allowed 1 hour and 15 minutes

Instructions

- Answer all the questions on the exam paper.
- Write your answers in the space provided.
- Read the instructions carefully.
- Answer each question as clearly and as neatly as possible.
- Total marks: 50





Comprehension: (25 marks)

Read the following extract entitled ‘Experience: I was attacked by killer bees.’

I heard the bees way before I saw them. I also heard my friend John screaming before I knew what was happening. He was a little way ahead of me, on a rock face close to the water.

I was 18 and backpacking around India with friends. One very hot afternoon, four of us decided to cool off in a patch of river the locals had told us about. We were not climbers – we were wearing flip-flops – but to reach the water we had to scramble down a small **ravine**. That’s when John started to wave his arms around and I knew something was up. He jumped forward a few steps, and then leapt 10ft off the **precipice** into the dark green pool beneath us.

I heard a low hum, which was growing louder, but I still did not know what it was. From a distance, the swarm looked almost like smoke, an **opaque mass** vibrating somewhere above me. As it got closer, I realized that this strange cloud was actually thousands of bees, each one an inch long and heading for me.

John had been close enough to the rock edge to leap to safety, but I was unable to jump from where I was balanced on rocks higher up the ravine. So I covered my face with my hands; a childlike reaction to protect myself. I genuinely thought that if I made myself invisible, they might not find me. It was not logical, but it made sense at the time. I curled up into a tiny ball, praying they would think I was just another rock.

After a few seconds, and the sixth or seventh sting, I knew my plan had not worked. It was me the bees were after. I could hear my friends below, shouting. The two others had reached the water before the attack began, and they were telling me to get down to the pool fast.

By now, I was in extraordinary pain. Each sting was like a wave of agony – much worse than that of European wasps or bees. I later found out that these were giant honeybees and that, when provoked, a **swarm** of them was

easily capable of stinging a human being to death. We had obviously disturbed their colony, although we never actually saw the nest.

The only way I could get away from them was to use my hands to climb down the rocks, yet this meant exposing my face. The noise the bees made was so loud and terrifying, my instinct was to scrunch up my eyes and keep them closed.

Unfortunately, however, I had no choice. I did **scramble down** the rock face and jump into the pool, but I have no recollection of doing so. Everything was blanked out by the sheer relief of being free from the pain. I was safe, and the sensation of treading water seemed wonderful.

It was terrible, then, to realize that we still weren't out of danger. Every time one of us tried to climb out of the pool, the bees swarmed back over our heads. We spent the next three hours bobbing up and down in the water, which was just shallow enough at the edges to stand in. We kept dipping our heads under to avoid the bees, keeping as still and as quiet as possible until they finally lost interest.

I was the first to make it out, covering myself with a damp sarong that had been around my neck. Slowly I climbed back out of the ravine and sat under a tree. One by one, the others followed me; it seemed to take for ever in the **scorching** heat. One friend extracted my stings where she could – I had around 15, including one up my nose. 'I don't know whether to laugh or cry,' I said, at which point all of us fought back tears of fear, shock, horror and relief.

The real miracle was that John, who was already in the pool before the attack began, was **lethally allergic** to stings. Had he been in my shoes, he would definitely have died. As it was, he was stung twice and his arm swelled to the size of a melon. Any more stings and he could have suffocated, whereas I just had little bumps with the stings sticking out of them, and was thankfully **immune** to their poison.

I don't have much luck with wild animals in India. As a child, I had to be rescued from a pack of wild dogs and not so long ago I was nearly trampled to death by an elephant in the Assamese jungle. As you can imagine, I am not an animal lover, but I will always be thankful that the bees attacked me and not my friends.

Answer all of the following questions in **full sentences**, unless otherwise instructed.

1. What was the first sign that there would be a bee attack?

(1 mark)

2. What caused the bees to attack?

(2 marks)

3. Where was the writer's friend John when the bee attack began?

(1 mark)

4. Why had the friends gone to the river in the first place?

(1 mark)

5. What types of bees were they?

(1 mark)

6. How long do the friends have to remain in the water? Why?

(2 marks)

7. Explain the meaning of the following words/phrases as they have been used in the passage (they have been highlighted in bold):

- Ravine _____
- Precipice _____
- Opaque mass _____
- Swarm _____
- Scramble down _____
- Lethally allergic _____
- Immune _____

(7 marks)

8. Find an example of a simile in paragraph 3 and explain its effect:

Simile: _____

Effect: _____

(2 marks)

9. When the writer describes the bee attack, she uses vocabulary relating to the senses. Find an example of visual (sight), aural(sound) and tactile (touch) imagery from the passage and explain its effect:

Example: _____

Effect: _____

Example: _____

Effect: _____

Example: _____

Effect: _____

(6 marks)

10. In her final sentence, the writer says: 'I'll always be thankful that the bees attacked me and not my friends'. However, at least one of her friends is also stung. What do you think she means?

(2 marks)



Composition (25 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following titles and write between 300-350 words.
You are reminded of the need for accuracy and clarity.

Narrative

1. Write a story about a time you walk into your house, everything is different and there is nobody home.

- Use narrative techniques to develop your story.
- Use your imagination to develop an original story and to clearly communicate what shocked you.
- Use a wide range of vocabulary and sentence types.
- Develop your narrative towards a suitable ending.
- Use accurate spelling, expression and grammar.

Descriptive

2. Describe a place you never want to go back to.

- Say why you never want to go back to this place.
- Use a wide range of descriptive language-adjectives, adverbs, imagery.
- Refer to the senses for detail (e.g. sight, sound, smell, touch).
- Use accurate spelling, expression and grammar.

