

## Mid Programme Entries 2014

Year 3

### ENGLISH

Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 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.



## **Comprehension: (20 marks)**

### Finding our Way through the Dark

“After riding twenty miles, which made the distance for that day fifty, I remounted Birdie (*her horse*) to ride six miles farther, to a house which had been mentioned to me as a stopping-place. The road rose to a height of 11,000 feet, and from thence I looked my last at the lonely, uplifted prairie sea.

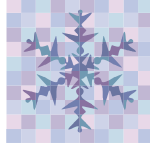
The worst, rudest, smallest, darkest road I have yet travelled on, nothing but a winding ravine, the Platte Canyon, pine-crowded and pine-darkened, walled in on both sides for six miles by pine-skirted mountains 12, 000 feet high! Along this abyss for forty miles there are said to be only five houses, and were it not for miners going down, and freight-wagons going up, the solitude would be awful.

As it was, I did not see a creature. It was four when I left South park, and between those mountain walls and under the pines it soon became quite dark, a darkness which could be felt. The snow which had melted in the sun had refrozen, and was one sheet of smooth ice. Birdie slipped so alarmingly that I got off and walked, but then neither of us could keep our feet, and in the darkness she seemed so likely to fall upon me, that I took out of my pack the man’s socks which had been given me at Perry’s Park, and drew them on over her fore-feet, a solution which for a time worked very well and which I suggest to all travelers who might be having the same problem.

It was unutterably dark, and all these operations had to be performed by the sense of touch only. I remounted, allowed her to take her own way, as I could not see even her ears, and though her hind legs slipped badly, we managed to get along through the narrowest part of the canyon, with a tumbling river close to the road. The pines were very dense, and sighted and creaked mournfully in the severe frost, and there were other eerie noises not easy to explain.

At last, when the socks were nearly worn out, I saw the blaze of a campfire, with the two hunters sitting by it, on the hillside, and at the mouth of a gulch something which looked like buildings. We got across the river partly on ice and partly on fording (*crossing*), and I found that this was the place where, in spite of its somewhat questionable reputation, I had been told I could stay for the night.

*(In 1873, Isabella Bird, an adventurer from England, rode a horse 800 miles through the Rocky Mountains in the U.S.A. This is one of her stories.)*



1. What was Isabella Bird's solution to a problem that comes up?

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(2 marks)

1. How do you know she is proud of her survival skills?

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(2 marks)

2. How long do you think the journey she describes takes?

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(2 marks)

3. The writer is clearly adventurous. What other characteristics does she have? Use the text to support your answer.

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(4 marks)

4. What do you think the writer means by 'a darkness which could be felt'?

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(2 marks)

5. How can you tell that the writer has great affection for her horse, Birdie?

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(2 marks)

6. One way writers can create vivid description is by using long lists of descriptive words and phrases for example:

*'The worst, rudest, smallest, darkest road I have yet travelled on...'*

Write down another example of this listing technique in the text and explain the effect of describing things in this way:

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(3 marks)

7. Another way writers can create vivid images for their readers is through personification; find an example of this from the passage and explain its effect.

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(3 marks)

Usage: (10 marks)

Using the words given in bold, complete the second sentence in such a way that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. (5 marks)

Example: How much did the trip cost you?     **Charge**  
              How much did they charge you for the trip?

1. He couldn't find the opera house                                 **Difficulty**  
   He \_\_\_\_\_ opera house.
2. I don't recommend that you see that exhibition.           **Worth**  
   It's \_\_\_\_\_.
3. 'You took it without paying for it', the shopkeeper said to her.   **Accused**  
   The shopkeeper \_\_\_\_\_.
4. 'Let's go to this bar' my friend said.                             **Suggested**  
   My friend \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I haven't seen John for three years.                             **Last**  
   The \_\_\_\_\_.

Fill in the gaps with a suitable preposition (5 marks)

Example: She invited her friend \_\_\_\_\_ a coffee.

Answer: She invited her friend **for** a coffee.

1. When we moved to another city, I had to give \_\_\_\_\_ my job.
2. It took a long time, but she finally got \_\_\_\_\_ the shock.
3. She has decided to take \_\_\_\_\_ a new hobby, now that she has more free time.
4. My brother took \_\_\_\_\_ my father's business when he retired.
5. Everybody says I take \_\_\_\_\_ my mother.
6. He must have been tired because he didn't seem to take \_\_\_\_\_ anything I was saying.
7. The thief broke \_\_\_\_\_ the house and stole all the jewelry.
8. The police had to look \_\_\_\_\_ the matter before they prosecuted anyone.
9. The boy made \_\_\_\_\_ a ridiculous story about an alien attack.
10. He couldn't understand his wife's attitude \_\_\_\_\_ his friends.



## **Writing Task: (20 marks)**

Choose ONE of the following tasks and write between 200-300 words.

### **Descriptive**

Write the description of a day spent at a water park, in which you describe what happened and how you felt. You should use:

- The senses
- Descriptive and varied vocabulary
- Paragraphs
- Accurate spelling, expression and grammar

Remember that your choice of vocabulary is very important to the effect you achieve.

### **Narrative**

Write a story with the title “A Frightening Experience”.

- Your narrative can be either in the first person or in the third person
  - Include feeling
  - Developed your narrative with a structured plot, leading towards a suitable ending
  - Use accurate spelling, expression and grammar
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