

The English School

Mid-Entry Examination 2020

English – Year 2

Time Allowed: 1hour 15 minutes

General Instructions:

1. Answer all questions
2. Use your own words unless otherwise stated
3. Write neatly
4. Check your work carefully at the end

Marks Allocated:

Section A: Comprehension (20 marks)

Section B: Directed Writing (10 marks)

Section C: Composition (20 marks)

Good Luck!

Section A: Comprehension

(20 marks)

Read the following extract which has been adapted from a novel set during World War Two ‘Goodnight Mister Tom’ by Michelle Magorian. In the extract, Tom Oakley, who has recently experienced the death of his family and now lives alone, meets a young evacuee* called Willie and agrees to look after him.

*evacuee: a person evacuated from a place of danger

Meeting

‘Yes,’ said Tom bluntly, on opening the front door. ‘What do you want?’

A stressed middle-aged woman in a green coat and hat stood on his step. He **glanced** at the armband on her sleeve. She gave him an **awkward** smile.

‘I’m the Housing Officer for this area,’ she began.

“Oh yes, and what’s that got to do with me?”

She **flushed** slightly. ‘Well, Mr, Mr...’

‘Oakley. Thomas Oakley.’ She paused and took a deep breath. ‘Mr Oakley, with the announcement of war close...’

Tom waved his hand. ‘I know all that. Get to the point. What do you want?’ He noticed a small boy at her side.

‘It’s him I’ve come about,’ she said. ‘I’m on my way to your village hall with the others.’

‘What others?’

She stepped to one side. Behind the large iron gate which stood at the end of the graveyard were a small group of children. Many of them were filthy and very poorly dressed. Only a handful had a blazer or coat. They all looked confused and exhausted. One tiny dark-haired girl in the front was hanging firmly on to a new teddy-bear.

The woman touched the boy at her side and pushed him forward.

“There’s no need to tell me,” said Tom. ‘It’s compulsory and it’s for the war effort.’

‘You are **entitled** to choose your child, I know,’ began the woman apologetically.

Tom gave a snort.

'But,' she continued, 'his mother wants him to be with someone who's religious or near a church. She was sure about that. Said she would only let him be evacuated if he was.'

'Was what?' asked Tom impatiently.

'Near a church.'

Tom took a second look at the child. The boy was thin and sickly-looking, pale with floppy sandy hair and dull grey eyes.

'His name's Willie,' said the woman.

Willie, who had been staring at the ground, looked up. Round his neck, hanging from a piece of string, was a cardboard label. It read 'William Beech'.

Tom was well into his sixties, a healthy, robust, well-built man with a head of thick white hair. Although he was of average height, in Willie's eyes he was a towering giant with skin like coarse, brown paper and a voice like thunder.

He glared at Willie. 'You'd best come in,' he said abruptly.

The woman gave a relieved smile. 'Thank you so much,' she said, and she backed quickly away and hurried down the tiny path towards the other children. Willie watched her go.

'Come on in,' repeated Tom harshly. 'I haven't got all day.'

Nervously, Willie followed him into a dark hallway. It took a few seconds for his eyes to adjust from the brilliant sunshine he had left to the darkness of the cottage. He could just make out the shape of a few coats hanging on some wooden pegs and two pairs of boots standing below.

'I suppose you had best know where to put your things,' muttered Tom, looking up at the coat rack and then down at Willie. He scratched his head. "It's a bit high for you. I'd best put in a low peg.'

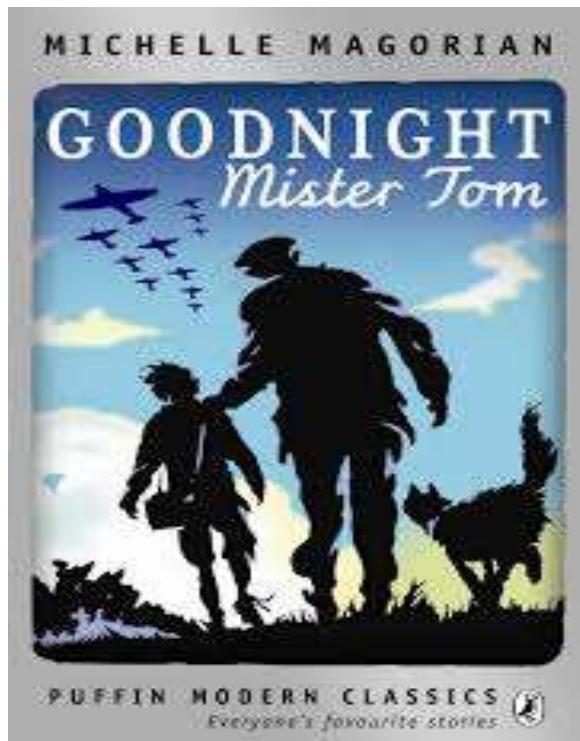
He opened the door on his left and walked into the front room, leaving Willie in the hallway still clutching onto his brown carrier bag. Through the half-open door he could see a large black oven with a fire in it and an old armchair nearby. He shivered. Presently Tim came out with a pencil.

'You can put that whole bag down,' he said impatiently. 'You aren't going anywhere else.'

'Go on,' said Tom, 'I told you before, I haven't got all day. Now make a mark so that I know where to put a peg.' Willie made a faint dot on the wall beside the hem of the large coats. 'Make a nice big one so that I can see it clearly.' Willie drew a small circle and filled it in. Tom leaned down and peered at it. 'Neat little fellow aren't you? Give me your coat and I'll put it on top of mine for now.'

With shaking fingers Willie undid his belt and buttons, peeled off the coat and held it in his arms. Tom took it from him and hung it on top of his coat. He walked back into the front room. ‘Come on,’ he said. Willie followed him in.

It was a small, comfortable room with two windows. The front one looked out on to the graveyard, the other to a little garden at the side. The large black oven stood solidly in an alcove in the back wall, a thick dark pipe curving its way upward through the ceiling. Stretched out underneath the side window were a few shelves filled with books, old newspapers and odds and ends and by the front window stood a heavy wooden table and two chairs. The flagstone floor was covered in a faded crimson, green and brown rug. Willie glanced at the armchair by the oven and the objects that lay on top of the small wooden table beside it: a pipe, a book and a tobacco jar.



Answer all the questions which follow using your own words unless otherwise stated.

1. Use the information in the text to decide whether these statements are true or false.

	True	False
The woman has an armband on her coat		
She is the local Housing Officer		
War will probably start soon		
The children were clean but poorly dressed		

(4 marks)

2. In your own words, summarise the character of Tom. Make sure to include 3 details about him from page 1 of the extract.

(3 marks)

3. Re-read from “His name’s Willie,’ said the woman...’ until ‘William Beach.’ on page 2 of the extract. What words or phrases from the passage show the reader how Willie was feeling.

(1 mark)

4. Re-read the last paragraph of the extract which begins ‘It was small, comfortable...’

In your own words, describe the cottage. Make sure to include four details.

(4 marks)

5. Tick to show whether each sentence from the passage is written in the past or present tense.

	Past	Present
'I'm on my way'		
Tom waved his hand.		
'It's obligatory and it's for the war effort.'		

(3 marks)

6. Match the words/phrases from the passage (on the left) with their meaning (on the right), as they are used in the passage. The words are in bold in the text.

glanced face went red

awkward allowed

flushed looked

entitled difficult

peeled removed

(5 marks)

Section B: Directed Writing

(10 marks)

Imagine you are Tom. Continue the letter below which is to the Housing Officer, explaining your thoughts about Willie.

In your letter, you should include:

- what you have done for him;
- how you feel about having this boy in your care.

Base your answer on information from the text.

Up to 7 marks are available for the **content** and 3 marks available for the style and accuracy of your **writing**.

Dear Housing Officer,

I am writing to inform you about my recent experience with the child that I have been asked to look after during these difficult times.

So far, I have...

Yours faithfully,

Tom Oakley

Section C: Composition

(20 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following questions and write about 250-350 words. Remember the importance of vocabulary, expression, accuracy, linking words, punctuation, paragraphing, planning and content.

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story where two characters meet for the first time.

- Use narrative techniques to develop the story
- Use a wide range of vocabulary and sentence types

OR

Descriptive

2. Imagine you visit a small house, on a quiet road in the mountains.

Describe the place and your feelings, focusing on:

- Using a wide range of descriptive language such as adjectives, adverbs, imagery etc.
- Referring to the senses for detail (e.g. sounds, smells, touch etc.)

Question Number:

- This is the end of the Examination -