

The English School

Mid-Entry Examination 2021

English – *Year 2*

Time Allowed: **1hour 15minutes**

General Instructions:

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

Marks Allocated:

Section A: Comprehension (25 marks)

Section B: Composition (25 marks)

Good Luck!

Section A: Comprehension

(25 marks)

5 *The following extract is about a teenage boy who wakes up in a moving pitch-black elevator. The boy remembers that his name is Thomas but has no memory of how he got into the elevator or who he is. He remembers a vague outline of people and events, but all his memories are unclear.*

10 He began his new life standing up, surrounded by cold darkness and stale, dusty air.

15 Metal ground against metal; a lurching shudder shook the floor beneath him. He fell down at the sudden movement and shuffled backward on his hands and feet, drops of sweat beading on his forehead despite the cool air. His back struck a hard metal wall; he slid along it until he hit the corner of the room. Sinking to the floor, he pulled his legs up tight against his body, hoping his eyes would soon adjust to the darkness.

With another jolt, the room jerked upward like an old lift in a mine shaft [1].

20 Harsh sounds of chains and pulleys [2], like the workings of an ancient steel factory, echoed through the room, bouncing off the walls with a hollow, tinny whine. The lightless elevator swayed back and forth as it ascended, turning the boy's stomach sour with nausea; a smell like burnt oil invaded his senses, making him feel worse. He wanted to cry, but no tears came; he could only sit there, alone, waiting.

25 My name is Thomas, he thought.

That... that was the only thing he could remember about his life.

30 He didn't understand how this could be possible. His mind functioned without flaw, trying to calculate his surroundings and predicament [3]. Knowledge flooded his thoughts, facts and images, memories and details of the world and how it works. He pictured snow on trees, running down a leaf-strewn road, eating a hamburger, the moon casting a pale glow on a grassy meadow, swimming in a lake, a busy city square with hundreds of people bustling about their business.

35 And yet he didn't know where he came from, or how he'd gotten inside the dark lift, or who his parents were. He didn't even know his last name. Images of people flashed across his mind, but there was no recognition, their faces replaced with haunted smears of colour. He couldn't think of one person he knew, or recall a single conversation.

40 The room continued its ascent, swaying; Thomas grew immune [4] to the ceaseless [5] rattling of the chains that pulled him upward. A long time passed. Minutes stretched into hours, although it was impossible to know for sure because every second seemed an eternity. No. He was smarter than that. Trusting his instincts, he knew he'd been moving for roughly half an hour.

45 Strangely enough, he felt his fear whisked away like a swarm of gnats caught in the wind, replaced by an intense curiosity. He wanted to know where he was and what was happening.

50 With a groan and then a clonk, the rising room halted; the sudden change jolted Thomas from his huddled position and threw him across the hard floor. As he scrambled to his feet, he felt the room sway less and less until it finally stilled. Everything fell silent.

A minute passed. Two. He looked in every direction but saw only darkness; he felt along the walls again, searching for a way out. But there was nothing, only the cool metal. He groaned in frustration; his echo amplified through the air, like the haunted moan of death. It faded, and silence returned. He screamed,

called for help, pounded on the walls with his fists.

Nothing.

Thomas backed into the corner once again, folded his arms and shivered, and the fear returned. He felt a worrying shudder in his chest, as if his heart wanted to escape, to flee his body.

Glossary:

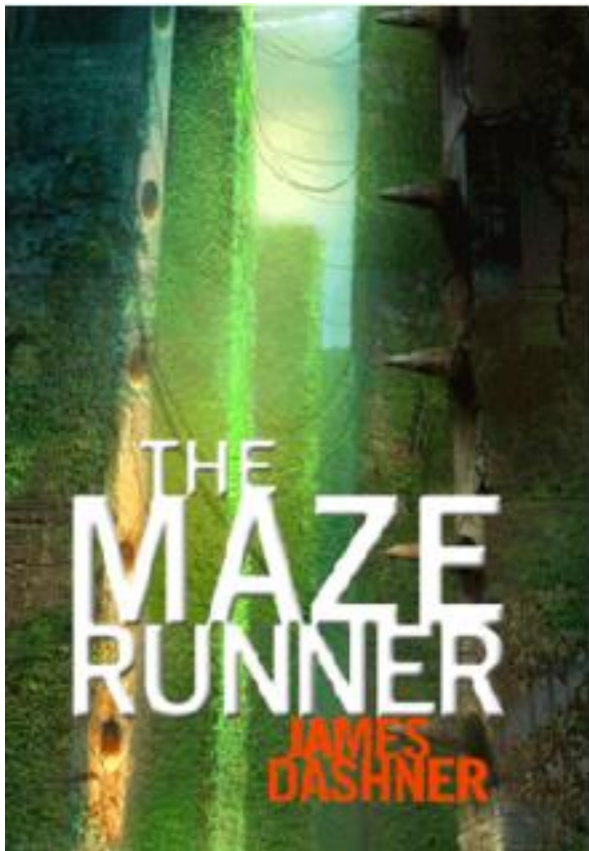
[1] mine shaft: hole

[2] pulleys: lifters

[3] predicament: problem

[4] grew immune: became unaffected

[5] ceaseless: never-ending



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

1. What type of room is Thomas in at the beginning of the novel?

(1 mark)

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

	True	False
Thomas could remember a lot of details about his life.		
Time passed quickly for Thomas.		
The room Thomas was in was unstable.		
Thomas was extremely scared.		

(4 marks)

3. **Using your own words**, describe the situation Thomas finds himself in. Make sure you include 4 details.

(4 marks)

4. Reread the last paragraph of the extract (lines 58-59). Explain how Thomas is feeling using two phrases from the text to support your answer.

(4 marks)

5. **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by:

i. 'hoping his eyes would adjust to the darkness' (line 15)

(2 marks)

ii. 'images of people flashed across his mind' (line 35)

(2 marks)

iii. 'The room continued its ascent, swaying' (line 39)

(2 marks)

6. Give the meaning of the underlined words in the following three phrases as the writer uses them in the passage.

i. 'every second seemed an eternity' (line 41)

Meaning of the underlined word as the writer uses it: _____

(1 mark)

ii. 'he felt his fear whisked away' (line 44)

Meaning of the underlined word as the writer uses it: _____

(1 mark)

iii. 'the rising room halted' (line 46)

Meaning of the underlined word as the writer uses it: _____

(1 mark)

7. Commas can be used to clarify the meaning of a sentence. Put commas in the appropriate places in the following sentence.

Thomas who found himself in an unknown place was very confused.

(2 marks)

8. Use a connective or a connective phrase to complete the sentence below.

The situation Thomas was in was a difficult one. _____, he was too confused to make it any better.

(1 mark)

Section B: Composition

(25 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following questions and write about 300-350 words.

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story which begins with the words “ Stay where you are. We have brought you here to teach you a lesson,’ the voice echoed across the room.”

You should:

- develop a realistic plot
- use a variety of narrative techniques
- use language for effect.

OR

Descriptive

2. Imagine you are trapped inside a room with no way out. Describe the room.

You should:

- use the senses
- use imagery
- provide detail for your reader
- make sure you do NOT write a story.

12 marks are available for the **content and structure** of your writing

13 marks are available for the **style and accuracy** of your writing.

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