

The English School

Mid-Entry Examination 2021

English – *Year 3*

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 Reverend Erasmus Sunderly is a naturalist [1]. In this extract, he along with his wife Myrtle, and their children, fourteen-year-old Faith and young brother Howard, are on a boat which is taking them out to the small island of Vane where Erasmus will carry out some research.*

10 The boat moved with a nauseous, relentless rhythm, like someone chewing on a rotten tooth. The islands just visible through the mist also looked like teeth, Faith decided. Not fine, clean Dover teeth, but jaded, broken teeth, jutting crookedly amid the wash of the choppy grey sea. The mailboat [2] chugged its dogged way through the waves, greasing the sky with smoke.

'Osprey,' [3] said Faith through chattering teeth, and pointed.



15 Her six-year-old brother Howard twisted round, too slow to see the great bird, as its pale body and dark-fringed wings vanished into the mist. Faith winced as he shifted his weight on her lap. At least he had stopped demanding his nursemaid [4].

'Is that where we are going?' Howard squinted at the ghostly islands ahead.

20 'Yes, Howard.' Rain thudded against the thin wooden roof above their heads. The cold wind blew in from the deck, stinging Faith's face.

In spite of the noise around her, Faith was sure that she could hear faint sounds coming from the crate on which she sat. Rasps of movement, breathy slithers of scale on scale. It pained Faith to think of her father's little Chinese snake inside, weak with the cold, coiling and uncoiling itself in panic with every tilt of the deck.

25 Behind her, raised voices competed with the keening of the gulls and the *phud-phud-phud* of the boat's great paddles. Now that the rain was setting in, everybody on board was squabbling over the small sheltered area towards the stern. There was room for the passengers, but not for all of the trunks. Faith's mother Myrtle was doing her best to claim a large share for her family's luggage, with considerable success.

30 Sneaking a quick glance over her shoulder, Faith saw Myrtle waving her arms like a conductor while two deckhands moved the Sunderly trunks and crates into place. Today Myrtle was waxen [5] with tiredness and shrouded to the chin with shawls, but as usual she talked through and over everybody else, warm, bland and unabashed, with a pretty woman's faith in others' helpless chivalry.

35 'Thank you, there, right there – well, I am heartily sorry to hear that, but it cannot be helped – on its side, if you do not mind – well, your case looks very durable to me – I am afraid my husband's papers and projects will not endure the weather so – the Reverend Erasmus Sunderly, the renowned naturalist – how very kind! I am so glad that you do not mind . . .'

40 Beyond her, round-faced Uncle Miles was napping in his seat, blithely and easily as a puppy on a rug. Faith's gaze slipped past him, to the tall, silent figure beyond. Faith's father in his black priestly coat, his broad-brimmed hat overshadowing his high brow and hooked nose.

45 He always filled Faith with awe. Even now he stared out towards the grey horizons with his unyielding basilisk stare, distancing himself from the chilly downpour, the reek of bilge and coal-smoke and the ignominious arguing and jostling. Most weeks she saw more of him in the pulpit than she did in the house, so it was peculiar to look across and see him sitting there. Today she felt a prickle of pained sympathy. He was out of his element, a lion in a rain-lashed sideshow.

50 On Myrtle's orders, Faith was sitting on the family's largest crate, to stop anybody dragging it out again. Usually she managed to fade into the background, since nobody had attention to spare for a fourteen-year-old girl with wooden features and a mud-brown plait. Now she winced under resentful glares, seared by all the embarrassment that Myrtle never felt.

Myrtle's petite figure was positioned to impede anybody else trying to insert their own luggage under cover. A tall, broad man with a knuckly nose seemed about to push past her with his trunk, but she cut him short by turning to smile.

55 Myrtle blinked twice, and her big, blue eyes widened, taking on an earnest shine as if she had only just noticed the person before her with clarity. Despite her pink-nipped nose and weary pallor, her smile still managed to be sweet and confiding.

'Thank you for being so understanding,' she said. There was the tiniest, tired break in her voice.

60 It was one of Myrtle's tricks for handling men, a little coquetry she summoned as easily and reflexively as opening her fan. Every time it worked, Faith's stomach twisted. It worked now. The gentleman flushed, gave a curt bow and withdrew, but Faith could see he was still carrying his resentment with him. In fact, Faith suspected that her family had antagonized nearly everybody on the boat.

Glossary:

[1]**Naturalist:** someone who studies natural history

65 [2]**Mailboat:** a ship or boat that carries mail

[3]**Osprey:** a large fish-eating bird

70 [4]**Nursemaid:** A woman employed to look after a young child

[5]**waxen:** having a smooth, pale surface like that of wax



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

1. Reread lines 16-18 : list four things from this part of the extract that describe Howard and what he is doing.

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

iv. _____

(4 marks)

2. Reread lines 25-28:

a) Using one word or short phrase of your own, describe the atmosphere on the boat.

(1 mark)

b) Select one word or phrase from the text which reflect this atmosphere, identify the technique used by the writer and explain the effect on the reader.

Quotation:

(1 mark)

Technique Used:

(1 mark)

Effect:

(2 marks)

3. Reread lines 30-33: **Using your own words** describe how Myrtle is behaving using evidence from the text to support your answer.

(3 marks)

4. What does the simile in line 38 'Uncle Miles was napping in his seat, blithely and easily as a puppy on a rug.' tell us about what Faith's uncle is like?

(2 marks)

5. Using your own words, describe Faith's father. Make sure you include at least 3 details.

(3 marks)

6. Match the following words (in bold in the extract) to the synonyms provided.

nauseous

insistent

relentless

sickening

jaded

worn-out

chattering

thumped

wincing

look

thudded

knocking together

glance

flinched

conductor

performer

(8 marks)

Section B: Composition

(25 marks)

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

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story about a journey to somewhere unknown.

You should:

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

OR

Descriptive

2. Imagine you are travelling by boat to a deserted island. **Describe the island.**

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.

A blank sheet of lined paper with horizontal ruling lines spaced evenly down the page.

- *This is the end of the examination* -