



The English School Entrance Examination 2021

English – Year 1 Near Native Paper

Time allowed: 1hr 15mins

General Instructions:

1. Answer **one** question in Section A, and **all** questions in Sections B and C
2. Read the instructions carefully before answering
3. Do not spend too much time on questions you find difficult as you must finish the paper
4. Write neatly and in black ink
5. Check your work carefully at the end
6. No questions concerning the content of the paper are allowed
7. **Do Not** write your name on any part of the paper.

Time Guidance:

Section A: Composition (35 marks): 25 mins

Section B: Comprehension and Usage (50 marks): 35 mins

Section C: Directed Writing (15 marks): 15 mins

This paper consists of 17 pages

Good Luck!

Section A: Composition

(35 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following questions and write about **220-250 words**.

Remember the importance of:

- Planning your response
- Vocabulary, expression and written accuracy
- Structure and punctuation

EITHER:

1. Write a **story** which begins with the following words:

'I woke up to a strange sound coming from the park opposite my house. Knowing something was wrong, I couldn't resist investigating it further...'

Make sure you include the following within your story:

- an interesting event that happened during your investigation
- how you reacted.

OR

2. Imagine you are a **diver** exploring the deep blue sea. **Describe** your experience.

Make sure you reflect your feelings when describing:

- What you see
- What has impressed you the most.



OR

3. 'Mistakes are proof that you are learning'.

Discuss the above quote referring to the role mistakes play in our lives.

Make sure you:

- Refer to at least two reasons why mistakes are important
- Refer to one example of a mistake from your own life and how it has helped you grow as a person.

Question:

Lined writing area consisting of 25 horizontal lines.

Lined writing area with 20 horizontal lines.



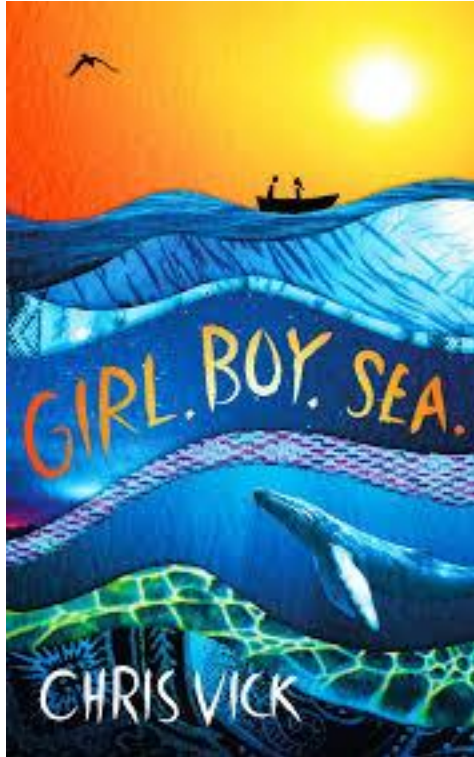
Turn to the next page

Section B: Comprehension and Usage

(50 marks)

Read the following extract carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.

The extract below is adapted from the novel 'Girl. Boy. Sea' by Chris Vick where the main character, a British boy, survives the sinking of his yacht in a huge storm off the coast of Morocco. After days alone at sea in a tiny rowing boat, Bill rescues a girl whose ship was destroyed by the same storm. They land on a desert island where they continue to struggle for survival.



The storm hit in the night. Rain, wind, lightning.

We'd been through it before; me and a rowboat, Aya clinging to an oil drum. So we could handle this, dry and warm, huddled under the cloak-blanket.

We whooped when it thundered. Aya **shrieked** as if she was on a roller coaster.

- 5 Rain drummed on the roof and found holes and gaps, dripping down on us. We shifted around so it hit the ground, splashing on the fire and making it **sizzle**.

We didn't care.

In the early hours we tried to sleep. I lay behind Aya and held the blanket over us.

10 The wind came in harder then, **seeking** gaps in the wall, kicking at the flames, whizzing sparks into the air. I couldn't sleep. I had to make sure our bed of branches and seaweed didn't catch fire. But I dozed and felt weirdly, totally calm. Safe.

In the early hours of the morning it started properly. Everything before that had just been a warning.

15 Lightning turned the room to day for **flashing** seconds. Thunder shook the earth. Wind buffeted the hut, blowing in shock gusts.

Aya woke.

The wind pushed the tarpaulin aside and flew in, blowing the fire across the floor. Then the tarpaulin – our door – ripped from the wall, flapping wildly. I leaped up to secure it but it flew from my grasp and into the air.

20 Gull waddled out and flew off.

Sheets of white light every few seconds. Cracks in the world.

Then the water came.

I went and looked outside, the wind almost knocking me over. In a blaze of white I saw walls of water, battering the cliff and flooding over the land.

25 A wave rushed in; a flood. The sea was rising.

'Get the tins!' I shouted. 'Grab everything!'

We stumbled, fumbled, finding the tins and the knife and stuffing all we had into the cloak.

Outside the wind was so violent we could barely stand. We put our heads into it. I **braced** my legs, anchoring myself to the earth.

30 'Lighthouse!' Aya yelled.

'No! If the hut fills, so will the lighthouse...We have to go to the cave.'

We made our way, heads down, step by step. When a vicious gust hit, we couldn't walk, only hold onto each other, desperately.

'The boat!' she shouted. 'We must make it safe.'

35 I thought it *was*. High and dry. But now nothing was safe.

We used the lightning to find our way. And what we saw **terrified** me. Great sheets of water filling the horizon. Wind tugging at the boat and **scraping** it along the rock to the sea. We got to it just before the sea's fingers claimed it.

40 We dragged and pulled *hoisting* it higher and higher. When we got it as far as we could we wedged it behind a rock, turned it over and tied the bow rope to a large stone. We hid the barrel and shell under it too, groping and **fumbling** to secure the upturned *hull*, making sure the wind couldn't get under it.

Even then the wind **tugged** and pushed at it.

45 'We can't leave it!' I shouted. But as if it heard us, the wind raged. Another bolt of lightning and thunder ripped across the sky. Aya squatted low to the ground, just to stop herself being blown away.

I saw a tree flying through the sky. Flying! The storm was showing us what it could do.

'The cave!' Aya shouted. 'We must go.'

When the wind lessened a fraction, we stumbled on, each an anchor for the other.

50 I don't know how we found the beach, how we climbed down the rocks, how we made our way through the trees, bending and leaning in the gale, wading, ankle – then knee-deep in mud. A tree snapped clean with an almighty crack as we clambered up the rock and through the entrance to the cave. I was thankful it was so high from the ground.

55 (Please turn over for the glossary)

Glossary:

Clinging: holding on tightly

Huddled: crowded together

Roller coaster:



Tarpaulin: a waterproof cloth

Anchoring: fixing

Dozed: sleep lightly

Hoisting: lift up

Hull: the body of the boat

1. Using one word, describe the weather in this extract.

(1 mark)

2. Re-read the paragraph which begins 'We whooped...' (line 4).

Find two quotes (words from the passage) which describe the sounds the children make and explain what they tell us about how they are feeling at this point in the extract.

Quote 1

Quote 2

(2 marks)

Explanation

(1 marks)

3. Re-read the paragraph 'The wind came in harder...' (line 9).

Using your own words, give two reasons why Bill (the narrator) couldn't sleep.

i. _____

ii. _____

(2 marks)

4. Explain why Bill and Aya had to 'go to the cave' (line 31)? Make sure you give **three** reasons.

(3 marks)

5. Re-read the paragraph 'We made our way...' (line 32).

Find **one** detail from the text that shows us that they had to be very careful on their walk to the cave.

(1 mark)

6. Look at the section 'I saw a tree flying...' (line 47). Why is the word flying repeated?

(2 marks)

7. Match the word on the left with their **synonyms** on the right, as they are used in the text. They have been underlined in the text for your reference. The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| sizzle | looking for |
| shrieked | petrified |
| seeking | crackle |
| flashing | yelled |
| braced | searching |
| terrified | blinking |
| scraping | steadied |
| fumbling | rubbing |
| tugged | pulled |

(8 marks)

8. Re-read the last paragraph of the extract. Summarise their journey to the cave in no more than 20 words.

(5 marks)

9. Underline the **five** sentences below which give accurate information:

Aya and Bill had other bad experiences before the storm of that night.

Aya made all the decisions.

They moved to the lighthouse when they realized their hut was not safe.

Bill fell asleep for a little while in the early hours of the morning.

If they had stayed in their hut, they would have been in danger.

The storm of the daytime was stronger.

Bill felt responsible for Aya.

They took the boat with them to the cave.

(10 marks)

10. Connect the following information using an appropriate connective.

e.g. They tried to sleep. The storm kept them awake.

*They tried to sleep **but** the storm kept them awake.*

i. The storm in the morning was harder to handle. It was much stronger.

ii. They tried to secure the boat. They realized it might be blown away.

iii. They thought about going to the lighthouse. The storm would have flooded that as well.

(6 marks)

11. The sentences below are linked to the text. Re-write each one of them without changing the meaning of the original sentence.

e.g.

We had _____ (experience) something similar before.

We had experienced something similar before.

i. Were you _____ (fright) Aya?

ii. How did you feel when you _____ (see) the rain coming into your tent?

iii. Why did you _____ (decide) to go to the cave?

iv. Were you _____ (hold) on to each other as you _____ (move) through the storm?

v. The horizon was _____ (fill) of water.

vi. Bill _____ (think) the boat was ok but soon _____ (begin) to realise that nothing was safe.

vii. The wind was _____ (thrash) everything that got in its way.

(9 marks)

Section C: Directed Writing

(15 marks)

Imagine you are Aya once you reach the cave. Continue your diary entry for that day.

In your response, make sure you include:

- details of what you did when the storm got dangerous
- your thoughts and feelings towards Bill.

There are **10 marks** for the ideas in your answer and **5 marks** available for your accuracy and style of writing.

Write around 120 words.

Dear Diary,

What a day this has been! Although we are not out of danger yet, I'm so glad we both reached the cave alive...
