

# **The English School**

## **Mid-Entry Examination 2019**

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 (20 marks)

Section B: Directed Writing (10 marks)

Section C: Composition (20 marks)

***Good Luck!***

## Section A: Comprehension

(20 marks)

*Read the following extract from the novel 'I am David' by Anne Holme in which David is allowed to escape from a concentration camp and make his way across Europe to a new home in Denmark. Twelve year old David waits nervously for the moment when he is to make his escape from the prison camp where he was born and grew up.*

David lay quite still in the darkness, listening to the men's low muttering. But this evening he was aware of their voices only as a vague meaningless noise in the distance, and he paid no attention to what they were saying.

'You must get away tonight,' the man had told him. 'Stay awake so that you're ready just before the guard's change. When you see me strike a match, the current will be cut off and you can climb over – you'll have half a minute for it, no more.'

In his mind's eye David saw once again the grey bare room he knew so well. He saw the man and was conscious, somewhere in the pit of his stomach, of the hard knot of hate he felt whenever he saw him. The man's eyes were small, repulsive, light in colour, their expression never changing; his face was gross and fat. David had known him all his life, but he never spoke to him more than was barely necessary to answer his questions; and though he had known his name for as long as he could remember, he never said anything but 'the man' when he spoke about him or thought of him. Giving him a name would be like admitting that he knew him; it would place him on an equal footing with the others.

But that evening he had spoken to him. He had said, 'And if I don't escape?'

The man had shrugged his shoulders. 'That'll be none of my business. I have to leave here tomorrow, and whatever my successor may decide to do about you, I shan't be able to interfere. But you'll soon be a big lad, and there's need in a good many places for those strong enough to work.'

David knew only too well that those other places would not be any better than the camp where he now was. 'And if I get away without being caught, what then?' he asked.

'Just by the big tree in the thicket that lies on the road out to the mines, you'll find a bottle of water and a compass. Follow the compass southwards till you get to Salonica, and then when no one's looking go on board a ship and hide. You'll have to stay hidden while the ship's at sea, and you'll need the water. Find a ship that's bound for Italy, and when you get there go north till you come to a country called Denmark – you'll be safe there.'

David had very nearly shown his **astonishment**, but he controlled himself, and hiding his feelings merely said, 'I don't know what a compass is.'

The man had shown him one, telling him that the four letters indicated north, south, east and west, and that the needle, which swung freely, always pointed in the same direction. Then he had added, 'The half minute the current's cut off is intended for you. If you try to take anyone with you, you can be sure that neither of you will get away. And now clear off before you're missed.'

David did not know what **possessed** him to say it – he had never asked the man for anything, partly because he knew it would be of no use, but chiefly because he would not – when you hated someone, you

did not ask him for anything. But tonight he had done it: when he reached the door, he turned round, and looking straight into that coarse heavy face said, 'I'd like a piece of soap.'

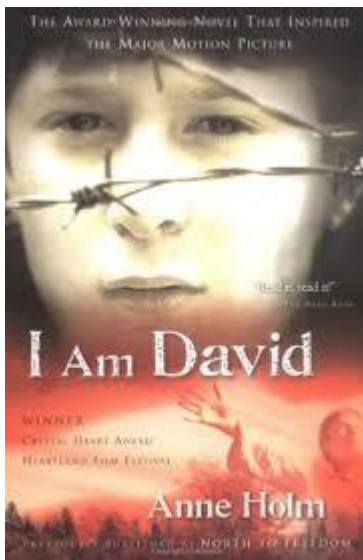
For a moment there had been complete silence in that bare grey room. Then the man picked up a cake of soap that lay by the side of the wash-basin in the corner and threw it on the table. All he said was, 'Now go.'

So David had gone, as quickly as it was possible to go without appearing to be in a hurry.

The men's muttering was fainter now – some of them must have fallen asleep. The camp's latest arrival was still talking. David recognised his voice because it was less flat and **grating** than the others. Whenever the newcomer **dozed off** to sleep, he was seized with a nightmare, and then they would all wake up again. The night before, this had happened just before the guard was changed, but if he took longer to fall asleep this evening, then it might be possible for David to slip out before the others were wakened again.

David was not yet sure whether he would make the attempt. He tried to work out why the man had told him to do it. It was certainly a trap: just as he was climbing over, the searchlight would suddenly swing round and catch him in its beam, and then they would shoot. Perhaps something pleasant was going to happen tomorrow and the man wanted his shot first. David had always known that the man hated him, just as much as David hated *him* in return. On the other hand, nothing pleasant had ever yet happened in the camp that David could remember, and he was now twelve years old – it said so on his identity-card.

And then quite suddenly David decided he would do it. He turned it over in his mind until his head was in a **whirl** and he still could not understand why the man had told him to escape. Suppose it were a trap and they shot him, it would all be over quickly anyway. If you were fired at while trying to escape, you would be dead within a minute. Yes, David decided to try.



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

1. What atmosphere does the writer create in the opening paragraph of this extract? Use one word to describe it.

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(1 mark)

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

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(4 marks)

3. a) What was David being encouraged to do?

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(1 mark)

b) What did David feel towards the man who was encouraging him to do this? How do you know this?

Use evidence from the text in your answer.

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(3 marks)

4. Complete the following sentence with appropriate words from the text.

David was told to use a \_\_\_\_\_ to guide him on his journey. He was told to travel south until he reached the city of \_\_\_\_\_.

(2 marks)

5. 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.

grating

spin

dozed off

scratching

whirl

slept

astonishment

own

possessed

surprise

(5 marks)

6. Write the plural of the following nouns from this extract.

Man \_\_\_\_\_

Match \_\_\_\_\_

Person \_\_\_\_\_

Compass \_\_\_\_\_

(4 marks)



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## 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 about a time where you felt trapped and tried to escape.
  - Use narrative techniques to develop the story
  - Use a wide range of vocabulary and sentence types

OR

Descriptive

2. Imagine you are on a ship full of passengers. Describe your experience focusing on:
  - Using a wide range of descriptive language-adjectives, adverbs, imagery
  - Referring to the senses for detail (e.g. sounds/sights/smells)



Question Number:

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- This is the end of the Examination -