

The English School

Mid-Entry Examination 2020

English – *Year 3*

Time Allowed: **1hour 15minutes**

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 (18 marks)

Section B: Directed Writing (12 marks)

Section C: Composition (20 marks)

Good Luck!

Section A: Comprehension

(18 marks)

The following extract is from the short story "A Vendetta" by Guy de Maupassant. In the extract the mother of Antoine promises to seek revenge for the man that killed him.

Paolo Saverini's widow lived alone with her son in a tiny cottage on the ramparts of Bonifacio. The town, built on a mountain spur, in some places actually overhanging the sea, faces the low-lying coast of Sardinia across the strait with its bristling reefs. At its foot on the other side it is almost entirely enclosed by a gash in the cliff like a gigantic passage, which serves as its harbour. The little Italian or Sardinian fishing-boats and once a fortnight the old puffing steamer, which runs to and from Ajaccio, come up as far as the first houses, after threading their way between two precipitous walls of rock.

On the white mountain-side the collection of houses makes a whiter patch. They look like the nests of wild birds **clinging** to the rock looking down on this dangerous channel, into which few ships venture. The wind harasses the sea remorselessly, sweeping the barren coast sparsely covered with coarse grass; it roars down the strait, stripping the land bare on both sides. Patches of whitish foam round the black tips of the countless reefs, which pierce the waves in every direction, look like torn sheets floating and drifting on the surface of the water.

The widow Saverini's house, clinging to the very edge of the cliff, had three windows opening on to this wide **desolate** view.

She lived there alone with her son, Antoine, and their dog, Frisky, a great raw-boned female dog, with a long, rough coat, of the sheep-dog breed. The young man used her as a gun-dog. One evening, after a quarrel, Antoine Saverini was treacherously knifed by Nicolas Ravolati, who escaped to Sardinia the same night.

When the old woman received her son's body, brought to her house by the passers-by, she shed no tears, but stood motionless for a long while, gazing at it; then, stretching out her wrinkled hand over the corpse, she vowed vengeance. She refused to let anyone stay with her, and shut herself up with the body and the howling dog.

The animal never stopped howling, standing at the foot of the bed, with head stretched out towards her master and tail between her legs. She stood as still as the mother, who bent over her body with staring eyes, now weeping silently, as she looked at him.

The young man, lying on his back, wearing his home-spun tweed jacket, with holes and rents in the breast, seemed to be asleep; but there was blood everywhere – on his shirt, which had been torn for first-aid dressings, on his waistcoat, on his trousers, on his face and on his hands. There were clots of dried blood on his beard and hair.

His aged mother began to speak to him; at the sound of her voice the dog stopped howling.

"Don't worry, my boy, my poor child, I will avenge you. Sleep, sleep; you shall be avenged. Do you hear me? It's your mother's promise, and your mother always keeps her word, you know that."

And slowly she bent over him, pressing her cold lips against the dead man's lips. Then Frisky began howling again, uttering a long, drawn-out moan, **monotonous, piercing**, sinister.

They stayed there, the two of them, the woman and the dog, till morning.

Antoine Saverini was buried next day, and he was soon forgotten in Bonifacio.

He had left neither brother nor near relative, so there was no one to take up the vendetta on his behalf.

His old mother was the only person who never forgot.



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

1. What are the 3 main events in the opening extract of the story 'A Vendetta'? Write them in bullet points.

- _____
- _____
- _____

(3 marks)

2. Re-read paragraphs 1 and 2 closely. Identify the techniques used in the quote:

a) 'threading their way between two precipitous walls of rock.'

Technique: _____

(1 mark)

b) Explain why the writer has used this technique and its effects on the reader.

(2 marks)

c) 'They look like nests of wild birds clinging to the rock'

Technique: _____

(1 mark)

d) Explain why the writer has used this technique and its effects on the reader.

(2 marks)

3. Re-read paragraph 4 closely. What does the word 'treacherously' suggest about the murder of Antoine Saverini?

(1 mark)

4. Find a quote from the passage which shows how the dog behaved when the widow sat with the body of her son.

(1 mark)

What does this quote suggest about the way the dog is feeling?

(1 mark)

5. At the end of the extract, the widow makes a promise to her son from: 'never fear, never fear...' to 'you know she never breaks it.' What is the effect of the repetition in this paragraph?

(2 marks)

6. Explain the following words (in bold in the extract) as they are used in the extract:

clinging

desolate

monotonous

piercing

(4 marks)

Section C: Composition

(20 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following questions and write about 300-350 words. Remember the importance of vocabulary, expression, accuracy, linking words, punctuation, paragraphing, planning and content.

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story where revenge is important.

- Use narrative techniques to develop the story
- Use a wide range of vocabulary and sentence types
- Develop your narrative towards a suitable ending

OR

Descriptive

2. Imagine you are in a boat travelling closely along the shore of a small island. Describe what you see, hear and feel.

- Give a vivid description of the place
- Use a wide range of descriptive language such as adjectives, adverbs, imagery etc.
- Refer to the senses for detail (e.g. sound, smell, touch etc.)

