

The English School

Mid-Entry Examination 2021

English – *Year 4*

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 *Read the following extract which has been adapted from the novel 'Patron Saints of Nothing', where 17-year-old Jay Reguero finds out about the sudden death of his cousin.*

I sleep in on Saturday because I've got no plans beyond gaming with Seth later tonight after he finishes his shift at the sock store. So after what I'll generously call brunch, I shuffle
10 downstairs in my joggers and an old T-shirt, sink into the living room couch, and fire up my PS4 to make some progress in this one-player game where you battle massive, robot dinosaurs in a post-apocalyptic Earth.

I don't know how many hours into this session I am when my dad's suddenly standing behind me like he's learned to teleport.

15 "Jason, can you pause your game for a second?" he asks.

"I'm almost at a checkpoint," I say.

"Jason..." he starts and then falters. He tries again. "Jason, I have something important to tell you."

20 "Hold on." I know I'm being rude, but I'm pretty sure this is probably going to be about college or something and I don't really want to talk about that anymore. Plus, I'm in the zone fighting this mech-t-rex that's already killed me, like, a million times.

"Jay," he says.

I slide down a hill and draw my bow and arrow, triggering the slow-motion mode. I release two arrows in quick succession. Both hit the beast's energy core, drawing heavy damage and
25 narrowing its HP counter to a sliver.

"YES!" I say.

"Your Tito Maning called." He pauses. "Jun is dead."

My fingers slow, but I keep playing. I'm not sure I heard him right. "Wait—what?"

Dad clears his throat. "Your cousin Jun. He's dead."

30 I freeze, gripping the controller like a ledge. I suddenly feel like I'm going to be sick. On the screen, the mechanical creature mauls my avatar. My life drains to zero. The camera pans upward, mimicking the soul's skyward path.

The words finally land, but they don't feel real. I was just thinking about my cousin last night...

35 "That's impossible," I say.

I sit up and shift so I'm facing Dad. He's still wearing his nurse's scrubs, and his salt-and-pepper hair is dishevelled like he's been running his fingers through it. Behind his glasses, his eyes are bloodshot. I glance at the time again. Mom's at the hospital, and he should be, too.

40 "I thought you'd want to know," he adds.

"When?" I ask, my chest tightening.

"Yesterday."

I'm quiet for a long time. "What happened? I mean, how did he..."

I can't say the word.

45 He sighs. "It doesn't matter."

"What?" I ask. "Why not?"

"He's gone. That's it."

"He was seventeen," I say. "Seventeen-year-olds don't randomly..."

He takes off his glasses and rubs his eyes. "Sometimes they do."

50 "So it was random? Like a car accident or something?"

Dad puts his glasses back on but avoids looking at me. He says nothing for a few beats, and then quietly, "What would it change if you knew?"

I don't answer because I can't. Doesn't the truth itself matter?

55 I should be crying or throwing my controller down in anguish—but I don't do any of this. Instead, there's only a mild confusion, a muddy feeling of unreality that thickens when I consider the distance that had developed between Jun and me. How do you mourn someone you already let slip away? Are you even allowed to?



60

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

1. Give **two** details from the text which suggest Jay is relaxed at the beginning of the extract.

i. _____

ii. _____

(2 marks)

2. **Using your own words**, describe Jay's behavior before he finds out about his cousin Jay's death.

_____ (2 marks)

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

i. 'post-apocalyptic Earth' (line 12) _____

_____ (2 marks)

ii. 'mauls my avatar' (line 31) _____

_____ (2 marks)

iii. 'he starts and then falters' (line 17) _____

_____ (2 marks)

3. **Using your own words**, explain what the writer means by each of the words underlined.

I slide down a hill and draw my bow and arrow, triggering the slow-motion mode. I release two arrows in quick succession. Both hit the beast's energy core, drawing heavy damage and narrowing its HP counter to a sliver.

i. triggering _____

ii. succession _____

iii. drawing _____

(3 marks)

4. Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests how Jay's father is feeling.

Use your own words in your explanation.

I sit up and shift so I'm facing Dad. He's still wearing his nurse's scrubs, and his salt-and-pepper hair is dishevelled like he's been running his fingers through it. Behind his glasses, his eyes are bloodshot. I glance at the time again. Mom's at the hospital, and he should be, too.

(3 marks)

5. Give the meaning of the underlined words in the following three phrases as the writer uses them in the passage. Then explain how the phrases help you understand the way Jay is feeling at that moment in the passage.

i. 'like he learnt to teleport' (line 14)

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

_____ (1 mark)

ii. Explanation of the whole phrase:

(2 marks)

iii. 'I freeze, gripping the controller like a ledge' (line 30)

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

_____ (1 mark)

iv. Explanation of the whole phrase:

(2 marks)

v. 'a muddy feeling of unreality that thickens' (line 55)

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

(1 mark)

iv. Explanation of the whole phrase:

(2 marks)

Section B: Composition

(25 marks)

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

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story with the title 'Seeking the Truth'.

You should:

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

OR

Descriptive

2. Describe the last moments before you leave a place for ever.

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.

- *This is the end of the examination* -