

# **The English School**

## **Mid-Entry Examination 2022**

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 'The Fountains of Silence', where Ana, whose family's struggles reveal the difficulties of the Spanish Civil War, describes her working day at a hotel in Spain.

10 It's a lie.

It has to be.

*I know what you've done.*

Ana Torres Moreno stands two levels below ground, in the second servants' basement. She rips the small note to pieces, shoves them in her mouth, and swallows.

15 A voice calls from the hall. 'Hurry, Ana. They're waiting.'

Dashing through the windowless maze of stone walls, Ana wills herself to move faster. Will herself to smile.

20 A weak glow from a bare bulb whispers light onto the supply shelf. Ana spots the tiny sewing kit and throws it into her basket. She runs to the stairs and falls in step with Lorenza, who balances an assortment of cigarettes on a tray.

'You look pale,' whispers Lorenza.

'I'm fine,' replies Ana.

*Always say you're fine, especially when you're not,* she reminds herself.

25 The mouth of the stairway appears. Light from a crystal chandelier twinkles and beckons from the glittering hall.

Their steps slow, synchronized, and in perfect unison they emerge onto the marble floor of the hotel lobby, faces full of smile. Ana scrolls her mental list. The man from New York will want a newspaper and matches. The woman from Pennsylvania will need more ice.

30 Americans love ice. Some claim to have trays of cubed ice in their own kitchens. Maybe it's possible. Ana sees advertisements for appliances in glossy magazines that hotel guests leave behind.

*Frigidaire! Rustproof aluminium shelving, controlled butter-ready.*

Whatever that means. Beyond Spain, all is a mystery.

35 Ana hears every word, but guests would never know it. She scurries, filling requests quickly so visitors have no time to glance out of their world and into hers.

Julia, the matriarch of their fractured family, issues constant reminders. "You trust too easily, Ana. You reveal too much. Stay silent.'

40 Ana is tired of silence, tired of unanswered questions, and tired of secrets. A girl of patched pieces, she dreams of new beginnings. She dreams of leaving Spain. But her sister is right. Her dreams have proven dangerous.

*I know what you've done.*

'For once, follow the rules instead of your heart,' pleads her sister.

45 Follow the rules. To be invisible in plain view and paid handsomely for it – five pesetas per hour – this is the plan. Her older brother, Rafael, works at both the slaughterhouse and the cemetery. Between two jobs he makes only twelve pesetas, twenty cents according to the hotel's exchange desk, for an entire day's work.

50 Ana hands the sewing kit to the concierge and heads quickly for the staff elevator. The morning is gone, but her task list is growing. Summer season has officially arrived at the hotel, pouring thousands of new visitors into Spain. The elevator doors open to the seventh floor. Ana shifts the basket to her hip and hurries down the long corridor.

'Towels for 760,' whispers a supervisor who shuttles past.

'Towels for 760,' she confirms.

55 Four years old, but to Ana, the American hotel smells new. Tucked into her basket, a matador, holding a red cape. In fancy scripts across the cape is written:

*Castellana Hilton Madrid. Your Castel in Spain.*

Castles. She saw old postcards as a child. The haunting newsreel rolls behind her eyes.

60 The tree-lined avenue of Paseo de la Castellana – home to Spanish royalty and grand places. And then, the bright images fade. 1936, Civil War erupts in Spain. War drains colour from the cheeks of Madrid. The grand palaces become grey ghosts. Gardens and fountains disappear. So do Ana's parents. Hunger and isolation cast a filter of darkness over the country. Spain is curtained off from the world.

65 And now, after twenty years of nationwide atrophy, Generalissimo Franco is finally allowing tourists into Spain. Banks and hotels wrap new exteriors over old palace interiors. The tourists don't know the difference. What lies beneath is now hidden, like the note disintegrating in her stomach.

70

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

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

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

(2 marks)

2. **Using your own words**, describe what Ana's working day is like.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

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

i. 'whispers light onto the supply shelf' (line 18) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

ii. 'twinkles and beckons' (line 24) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

iii. 'synchronized, and in perfect unison' (line 26) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

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

The grand palaces become grey ghosts. Gardens and fountains disappear. So do Ana's parents. Hunger and isolation cast a filter of darkness over the country. Spain is curtained off from the world.

i. isolation \_\_\_\_\_

ii. filter \_\_\_\_\_

iii. curtained \_\_\_\_\_

(3 marks)

4. Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests Ana's feelings about her current situation.

**Use your own words in your explanation.**

Ana is tired of silence, tired of unanswered questions, and tired of secrets. A girl of patched pieces, she dreams of new beginnings. She dreams of leaving Spain. But her sister is right. Her dreams have proven dangerous.

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(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 Ana is feeling at that moment in the passage.

i. 'She scurries, filling requests quickly' (line 34)

Meaning of the underlined word as the writer uses it: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

ii. Explanation of the whole phrase:

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(2 marks)

iii. 'the matriarch of their fractured family' (line 36)

Meaning of the underlined word as the writer uses it: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

iv. Explanation of the whole phrase:

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v. 'A girl of patched pieces' (line 39)

(2 marks)

Meaning of the underlined word as the writer uses it: \_\_\_\_\_

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(1 mark)

iv. Explanation of the whole phrase:

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(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 'A New Beginning'.

You should:

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

OR

### Descriptive

2. Describe a war-torn city.

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.







- *This is the end of the examination* -