



The English School Entrance Examination 2024

English

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

General Instructions:

1. Answer one question in Part A, and all questions in Part B and C
2. Read the instructions carefully before answering
3. Do not spend too much of your 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. Use your own words unless otherwise stated
7. No questions concerning the content of the paper are allowed

Time Guidance (including checking time):

Section A: Composition (35 marks), 30 minutes

Section B: Comprehension and Usage (50 marks), 30 minutes

Section C: Directed Writing (15 marks), 15 minutes

Total marks: 100

The paper consists of 16 Pages

Good Luck!

Section A: Composition

(35 marks)

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

Advice: Try not to use more than 30 minutes for this section.

Remember the importance of:

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

EITHER:

1. Write a **story** with the title:

'The Day when Everything Went Wrong'

You should include:

- how your day began
- what the worst part of it was
- how it ended.



OR

2. **Describe** your dream tree-house.

You should include:

- where it is and what it looks like
- what you can see and hear from it
- how it makes you feel.



OR

3. **Discuss** your views on the following topic:

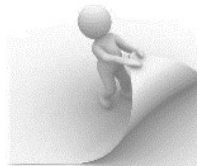
How to make the world a better place.

You should include:

- Identify two problems in our world
- Explain two things you would do to improve our world
- Describe your perfect world.



Question Number: _____



Turn to the next page

Section B: Comprehension

(50 marks)

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

The following extract is from a novel about modern Afghan society where Jalil's son delivers supplies to Nana and Mariam.

One of Mariam's earliest memories was the sound of a wheelbarrow's squeaky iron wheels bouncing over rocks. The wheelbarrow came once a month, filled with rice, flour, tea, sugar, cooking oil, soap, toothpaste. It was pushed by two of Mariam's half brothers, usually Muhsin and Ramin, sometimes Ramin and Farhad. Up the dirt track, over rocks and pebbles, around
5 holes and bushes, the boys took turns pushing until they reached the stream. There, the wheelbarrow had to be emptied and the items hand-carried across the water. Then the boys would transfer the wheelbarrow across the stream and load it up again. Another two hundred yards of pushing followed, this time through tall, **dense** grass and around thickets of shrubs. Frogs leaped out of their way. The brothers waved mosquitoes from their sweaty faces.

10 'He has servants,' Mariam said. "He could send a servant."

"His idea of penance," Nana said.

The sound of the wheelbarrow drew Mariam and Nana outside. Mariam would always remember Nana the way she looked on Ration Day: a tall, bony, barefoot woman leaning in the doorway, her lazy eye narrowed to a slit, arms crossed in a defiant and mocking way. Her short-cropped,
15 sunlit hair would be uncovered and uncombed. She would wear an ill-fitting gray shirt buttoned to the throat. The pockets were filled with walnut-sized rocks.

The boys sat by the stream and waited as Maria and Nana transferred the rations to the kolba. They knew better than to get any closer than thirty yards, even though Nana's aim was poor and most of the rocks landed well short of their targets. Nana yelled at the boys as she carried bags
20 of rice inside, and called them names. Mariam didn't understand. She **cursed** their mothers, made hateful faces at them. The boys never returned the insults.

Mariam felt sorry for the boys. How tired their arms and legs must be, she thought **pityingly**, pushing that heavy load. She wished she were allowed to offer them water. But she had nothing, and if they waved at her she didn't wave back. Once, to please Nana, Mariam even yelled at
25 Muhsin, told him he had a mouth shaped like a lizard's ass – and was **consumed** later with guilt., shame and fear that they would tell Jalili. Nana, though, laughed so hard, her rotting front tooth in full display, that Mariam thought she would lapse into one of her fits. She looked at Mariam when she was done and said, "You're a good daughter."

30 When the barrow was empty, the boys scuffled back and pushed it away. Mariam would wait and watch them disappear into the tall grass and flowering weeds.

“Are you coming?”

“Yes, Nana.”

“They laugh at you. They do. I hear them.”

“I’m coming.”

35 ‘You don’t believe me?’

“Here I am.”

“You know I love you, Mariam Jo.”

40 In the mornings, they awake to the distant bleating of sheep and the high-pitched toot of a flute as Gul Dama’s shepherds led their flock to **graze** on the grassy hillside. Mariam and Nana milked the goats, fed the hens, and collected eggs. They made bread together. Nana showed her how to knead dough, how to kindle the tandoor and slap the flattened dough onto its inner walls. Nana taught her to sew too, and to cook rice and all the different toppings: shalquam stew with turnip, spinach sabzi, cauliflower with ginger.

Answer all the questions that follow.

1. How did Mariam know that it was time for the supplies to arrive? Provide ONE detail from the opening sentence. (lines 1-2)

(1 mark)

2. How often did Mariam and her family receive supplies?

(1 mark)

3. a) List the supplies they received. Include five items.

(1 mark)

b) What does this tell us about the kind of life they had? Include three points.

(3 marks)

4. Describe the journey the wheelbarrow took from the dirt track to the stream. Provide four details.

(4 marks)

5. a) Quote a phrase from the first paragraph that shows us that pushing the wheelbarrow was not easy. (lines 1-9)

(1 mark)

b) In your own words, describe the challenges the boys faced while pushing the wheelbarrow. Include five challenges.

(5 marks)

6. Why did the wheelbarrow need to be emptied at the stream?

(1 mark)

7. a) **Using your own words**, describe Nana's appearance and behavior as she stood in the doorway. Include five details. (lines 12-16)

(5 marks)

8. What does 'ill-fitting' imply about the gray shirt Nana wore? (line 15)

(2 marks)

9. What items did Nana carry in her pockets? Why do you think she carried these?

(2 marks)

10. Why do you think the boys stopped themselves from returning Nana's insults?

(1 mark)

11. a) What simile does Mariam use to insult Muhsin?

(1 marks)

b) Why do you think she insulted him even though she didn't want to?

(2 marks)

c) What phrase from the passage tells us she didn't want to insult them?

(1 mark)

12. **In your own words** summarise the kind of relationship Mariam has with Nana. Provide five details.

(5 marks)

13. **Using your own words**, explain what the writers means by each of the words underlined:

i) 'dense grass' (line 8)

(1 mark)

ii) 'she cursed their mothers' (line 20)

(1 mark)

iii) 'how tired their arms and legs must be, she thought pityingly.' (line 22)

(1 mark)

iv) 'and was consumed later by guilt' (line 25)

(1 marks)

v) 'In the mornings, they awake to the distant bleating of sheep.' (line 38)

(1 mark)

vi) 'led their flocks to graze' (line 39)

(1 mark)

14. Antonyms

a) What is the opposite of 'empty'?

(1 mark)

b) Find an antonym for 'tall'.

(1 mark)

c) Identify the opposite of 'love'.

(1 mark)

15. Pronouns

a) In the sentence 'She cursed their mothers,' who does the pronoun 'she' refer to?

(1 mark)

b) What pronoun replaces the name 'Muhsin' in the sentence 'Mariam even yelled at Muhsin'?

(1 mark)

16. Identify the type of sentence in the phrase 'The boys scuffled back and pushed it away.'

(1 mark)

17. Circle the adverb in this sentence 'The boys never returned the insults.'

(1 mark)

18. Rewrite the sentence 'Mariam felt sorry for the boys' in the past perfect tense.

(1 mark)

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Mariam

Additional sheet (notes)

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This is the End of the Examination