

The English School

Mid-Entry Examination 2023

English – *Year 4*

Time Allowed: **1hr 15mins**

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)

The following extract is written from the perspective of a 17-year-old girl called Moonbeam who is recounting her experiences in life.

I sprint across the yard, my eyes streaming, my heart pounding in my chest.

The noise of the gunfire is still deafening, and I hear - I actually hear - bullets whizzing past me, their low whines like the speeded up buzz of insects, but I don't slow down, and I don't change course.

The Chapel is burning out of control, its roof engulfed by roaring fire and sending up a huge black plume of smoke, and the amplified voice of the Government booms across the compound, repeating its deafening demand over and over again.

"PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND COME FORWARD SLOWLY WITH YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR!"

Nobody is listening. Not the other Governments, and definitely not any of my Brothers and Sisters.

In the distance, back near the Front Gate, the tank rumbles forward, crushing the flimsy wire fence and churning the desert floor. Somewhere, over the engines and the endless rattle of gunfire, I can hear screams of pain and pleading shouts for help, but I force myself to ignore them and keep going: my eyes are fixed on the wooden cabins at the western edge of The Base.

I trip over something.

My feet tangle, and I go sprawling onto the cracked tarmac of the yard. Pain crunches through me as my shoulder hits the ground, and the gunfire is heavier than ever and the fire is leaping from building to building faster than I can follow.

I push Amos as hard as I can, and he stumbles backwards. He swings the pistol towards me but I'm already moving. I hear shots behind me but none of them find their target before I plunge into the smoke.

It's instantly hard to breathe; I clamp one of my hands over my mouth and nose but the thick, bitter smoke slips between my fingers and I start to cough. I see my fallen Brothers and Sisters all around me as I run, dark shapes that I stagger left and right to avoid. A few are moving, dragging themselves across the ground or twitching and spasming like they're having a fit, but most of them aren't.

Most of them are still.

45 The west barracks appear in front of me, their walls and flat roofs wreathed in acrid smoke. The gunfire is constant behind me, and with so many bullets flying through the air it feels like a matter of time until the inevitable happens. But as long as I unlock the cabins before it does, I don't care.

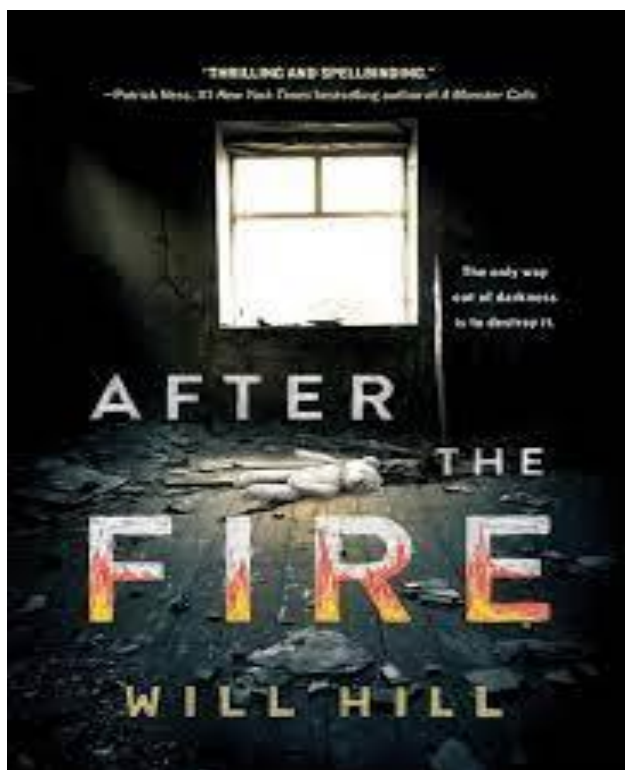
50 I really don't.

I stumble out of the worst of the smoke and towards the nearest cabin, fumbling the skeleton key out of my pocket. I grab the padlock hanging from the door and there's a sizzling sound and for the briefest of moments I don't understand what has happened - until pain explodes through me and I wrench my hand away and most of my palm stays stuck to the metal lock. I fall to my knees, clutching my ruined left hand against my stomach, and a scream that doesn't even sound human bursts out of my mouth.

60 It's overwhelming.

The pain.

It feels like someone has pushed my hand into a jar of acid.



Answer all the questions that follow.

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

i. _____

ii. _____

(2 marks)

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

i. 'like the speeded up buzz of insects' (line 4) _____

_____ (2 marks)

ii. 'its roof engulfed by roaring fire' (line 6)

_____ (2 marks)

iii. 'crushing the flimsy wire fence' (line 16) _____

_____ (2 marks)

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

My feet tangle, and I go sprawling onto the cracked tarmac of the yard. Pain crunches through me as my shoulder hits the ground, and the gunfire is heavier than ever and the fire is leaping from building to building faster than I can follow.

i. sprawling _____

ii. cracked _____

iii. leaping _____

(3 marks)

4. Choose **one** quote from the text below and explain **how the writer uses language** to suggest the narrator is in a lot of pain.

You could look at:

- vocabulary choices
- verb choices
- adjectives
- imagery.

Use your own words in your explanation.

I fall to my knees, clutching my ruined left hand against my stomach, and a scream that doesn't even sound human bursts out of my mouth.

(3 marks)

5. Give the meaning of the underlined words in the following phrases as the writer uses them in the passage. Then explain how the phrases help you understand what the narrator is witnessing and/or experiencing at that moment in the passage.

i. ‘twitching and spasming like they’re having a fit’ (line 39)

Meaning of the underlined words as the writer uses them:

Twitching _____

Spasming _____

(2 marks)

ii. Explain how this phrase helps you understand what the narrator is witnessing:

(2 marks)

iii. 'It's overwhelming' (line 59)

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

(1 mark)

iv. Explain how this phrase helps you understand what the narrator is feeling:

(2 marks)

6. Using your own words, summarise what the narrator's experience has been like. Make sure to include **four** details.

(4 marks)

Section B: Composition

(25 marks)

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

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story which begins with the line 'The opportunity had gone'.

You should:

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

OR

Descriptive

2. Describe a storm at sea.

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* -

