

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL, NICOSIA
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2012

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Native/Near-Native Speakers

Year 1

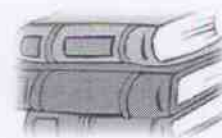
Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. FILL IN YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ON THE SLIP ATTACHED.
2. ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED AND THE WRITING TASK ON THE LINED PAPER IN THIS BOOKLET.
3. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.
4. WRITE NEATLY AND ACCURATELY.



READING COMPREHENSION AND DIRECTED WRITING: 40 MARKS



Reading and Comprehension: 25 marks

Read the text below and complete the tasks that follow:

The Snail and the Shrew (From: *Encounters with Animals*) by Gerald Durrell

Gerald Durrell, a very famous naturalist, describes an encounter between one of the slowest creatures of the West African forest (the snail) and one of the most bloodthirsty (the shrew).

Once during my lunch break I witnessed an extraordinary comedy that was performed almost, I felt, for my special benefit. On the tree trunk where I was sitting, not six feet away, out of a tangle of thick undergrowth, up over the bark of the trunk, there glided slowly and laboriously and very regally a giant land snail, the size of an apple.

I watched it as I ate, fascinated by the way the snail's body glided over the bark, apparently without any muscular effort whatever, and the way its horns with the round, rather surprised eyes on top, twisted this way and that as it picked its route through the miniature landscape of toadstools and moss. Suddenly I realized that as the snail was making its slow and rather vague progress along the trunk it was leaving behind it the usual glistening trail, and this trail was being followed by one of the most ferocious and bloodthirsty animals, for its size, to be found in the West African forest.

Out on to the log strutted a tiny creature only as long as a cigarette clad in jet-black fur and with a long slender nose that it kept glued to the snail's track, like a miniature black hound. It was one of the forest's shrews, whose courage is incredible and whose appetite is prodigious and insatiable. If anything lives to eat, this forest shrew does. They will even in a moment of peckishness think nothing of eating one another.

Chittering to himself, the shrew trotted rapidly after the snail and very soon overtook it. Uttering a high-pitched squeak, it flung itself on that portion of the snail which protruded from the rear of the shell and sank its teeth into it. The snail, finding itself so suddenly and unceremoniously attacked from the rear, did the only possible thing and drew its body rapidly back inside its shell. This movement was performed so swiftly and the muscular contraction of the snail was so strong, that as the tail disappeared inside the shell the shrew's face was banged against it and his grip was broken.

The shell, having now nothing to balance it, fell on its side, and the shrew, screaming with frustration, rushed forward and plunged his head into the interior, in an effort to retrieve the retreating snail. However, the snail was prepared for this attack and as soon as the shrew's head was pushed into the opening of the shell it was greeted by a sudden fountain of greenish-white froth that bubbled out and enveloped nose and head. The shrew leaped back with surprise, knocking against the shell as it did so.

The snail teetered for a moment and then rolled sideways and dropped into the undergrowth beneath the log. The shrew meanwhile was sitting on its hind legs, almost incoherent with rage, sneezing violently and trying to wipe the froth from its face with its paws.

The whole thing was so ludicrous that I started to laugh, and the shrew, casting a hasty and frightened glance in my direction, leapt down into the undergrowth and hurried away. It was not often during the forest's siesta time that I could enjoy such a scene as this.

Complete the following tasks using full sentences and in your own words as far as possible.

1. How big was the giant land-snail seen by Gerald Durrell?

(2 marks)

2. What was fascinating about the way the snail moved and about its horns?

(2 marks)

3. What do you understand by the phrase "This movement was performed so swiftly and the muscular contraction of the snail was so strong..."?

(2 marks)

4. What was the snail leaving behind as it moved?

(2 marks)

5. What did the shrew do as soon as it caught up to the snail?

(2 marks)

6. What broke the shrew's grip on the snail?

(2 marks)

7. How did the snail react when the shrew thrust its head into the interior of the snail's shell?

(2 marks)

8. What happened to the snail? Where did it end up?

(3 marks)

9. Explain the meaning of the following words in bold as they are used in the text:

- **Laboriously** _____
- **Bloodthirsty** _____
- **Strutted** _____
- **Insatiable** _____
- **Unceremoniously** _____
- **Frustration** _____

(6 marks)



Vocabulary and Grammar Usage: 30 marks

A) Instead of inserting 'said' into each of the blank spaces, use a suitable verb from those below:

Consented, greeted, groaned, bragged, apologized, screamed, estimated

Example: "That was a funny play" **chuckled** John.

1. "I'm badly injured," _____ the road-accident victim.
2. "I'm sorry I was late," _____ Debbie.
3. "When are we leaving?" _____ the children.
4. "No one can beat our team," _____ James.
5. "It's wonderful to see you again," Angela _____ him.
6. "All right, I'll wash the car," _____ Andrew.
7. "It will be fine weather tomorrow," _____ the weather bureau. (7 marks)

B) Turn each of these adjectives into its antonym(opposite) by adding the prefix:

Un, in, im, dis, il or ir

Example: pleased Answer: displeased

1. Grateful _____
2. Resistible _____
3. Necessary _____
4. Legal _____
5. Literate _____
6. Regular _____
7. Certain _____ (7 marks)

C) Complete each of these sentences by using the correct form of the word in parenthesis.

Example: The young man saw (see) the accident and reported (report) it to the police

1. My _____ (suggest) is that you set aside two hours per day for study.
2. Do not speak until you are _____ (speak) to.
3. I like your _____ (describe) of a furious teacher.
4. She is our school's best _____ (debate).
5. You'll need to visit the gym to _____ (development) a few muscles!
6. We only go on excursions that are _____ (education). (6 marks)

D) Use your own ideas to complete the following sentences; some of them are questions.

Example: How about going to the cinema this weekend?

1. Would you _____?
2. Do you mind _____?
3. I'd rather you _____.
4. If you take more exercise, _____.
5. We will probably _____.
6. If I don't go to work tomorrow, _____.
7. Whose _____?
8. If you bought some new clothes _____.
9. Would you go to the party if _____?
10. If I found a wallet in the street _____ (10 marks)

End of the examination