

LATE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 2012

YEAR 3

ENGLISH

Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Instructions:

- Answer all the questions on the exam paper.
- Make sure you check your work carefully for errors in spelling, expression and grammar usage.
- Answer each question as clearly and as neatly as possible.

GOOD LUCK!

Section A:

Comprehension (20 marks)

*This is an extract from **Private Peaceful** by Michael Morpurgo, which is set in the First World War. It is told by a soldier, Thomas Peaceful.*

I am writing to Mother- I haven't written for a while and I am feeling guilty about it. My pencil keeps breaking and I am sharpening it again. Everyone else is lying asleep in the sun or is sitting about smoking and chatting. Nipper Martin is cleaning his rifle again. He's always very particular about that.

"Gas! Gas!"

The cry goes up and is echoed all along the trench. For a moment we are frozen with panic. We have trained for this time and time again, but nonetheless we fumble clumsily, feverishly with our gas masks.

"Fix bayonets!" Hanley's yelling while we're still trying frantically to pull on our gas masks. We grab our rifles and fix bayonets. We're on the fire step looking out into no-man's-land, and we see it rolling towards us, dreaded killer cloud we have heard so much about but have never seen for ourselves until now. Its deadly tendrils are searching ahead, feeling their way forward in long yellow wisps, scenting me, searching for me. Then finding me out, the gas turns and drifts straight for me. I'm shouting inside my gas mask. "Christ! Christ!" Still the gas comes, wafting over our wire, through our wire, swallowing everything in its path.

I hear again in my head the instructor's voice, see him shouting at me through his mask when we went out on our last exercise. "You're panicking in there, Peaceful. A gas mask is like God, son. It'll work bloody miracles for you, but you've got to believe in it". But I don't believe in it! I don't believe in miracles.

The gas is only feet away now. In a moment it will be on me, around me, in me. I crouch down; hiding my face between my knees, praying it will float over my head, over the top of the trench and seek out someone else. But it does not. It's all around me. I tell myself I will not breathe, I must not breathe. Through a yellow mist I see the trench filling up with it. It drifts into the dugouts, snaking into every nook and cranny, looking for me. It wants to seek us all out, to kill us all, every one of us. Still I do not breathe. I see men running, staggering, falling. I hear Pete shouting for me. Then he's grabbing me and we run. I have to breathe now. I can't run without breathing. Half-blinded by my mask I trip and fall, crashing my head against the trench wall, knocking myself half-senseless. My gas mask has come off. I pull it down, but I have breathed in and know already it's too late.

Glossary:

Feverishly: in a state of intense excitement

Fire step: a step that ran along the length of a trench, allowing soldiers to see over the top.

No-man's -land: area of land between the two front lines.

Tendrils: a thin leaf or stem of a plant that twists around a support.

Questions

Answer all of the following questions using full sentences.

1. Which words in the first two sentences show that this is a first-person narrative?

(2 marks)

2. What is the main purpose of this text?

- a. To write an account of an actual gas attack in the First World War.
- b. To tell the reader what gas attacks were like, but in an entertaining way as part of a story.
- c. To tell a story of how someone was the victim of a gas attack.
- d. To show how terrible war can be.

Point to evidence in the text to support your answer

(2 marks)

3. Look at the sentence "...we fumble clumsily, feverishly with our gas masks".
What makes this description effective?

(2 marks)

4. What tense are the verbs in this narrative?

(1 mark)

5. Why do you think the writer has chosen this tense? What does it bring to the story?

(3 marks)

6. How does the writer make this moment dramatic and exciting?

Focus on:

- Use of imagery
- Use of repetition
- Sentence types
- First person narrative

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(5 marks)

7. Vocabulary:

Explain the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passage:

- Clumsily (paragraph 2)

- Frantically (paragraph 3)

- Dreaded (paragraph 3)

- Dugout (paragraph 5)

- Drifts (paragraph 3)

(5 marks)

Section B:

Directed Writing

(15 marks)

Imagine you are Thomas Peaceful after you have experienced the gas attack, write your thoughts.

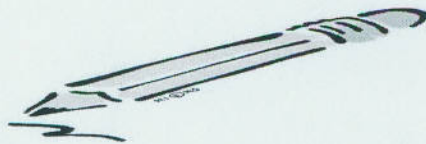
You might want to consider:

- His feelings about the attack
 - How it affected him physically
- (Write between 150-200 words)

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WRITING TASK: (15 marks)



Choose ONE of the following tasks and write between 150-250 words.

Descriptive

Write the description of a storm; this can be real or imaginary, in which you describe what happened and how you felt. You should use:

- The senses
- Descriptive and varied vocabulary
- Paragraphs
- Accurate spelling, expression and grammar

Remember that your choice of vocabulary is very important to the effect you achieve.

Narrative

Write a story with the title “The Unexpected Visitor”

- Your narrative can be either in the first person or in the third person
- Include feelings
- Develop your narrative with a structured plot, leading towards a suitable ending
- Use accurate spelling, expression and grammar

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