



FOUNDED 1900

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL
A SECOND CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE

The English School Entrance Examination 2024

English Near-Native

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 17 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 the
- Describe your perfect world.



Section B: Comprehension

(50 marks)

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

The following extract describes a difficult situation faced by Caspar, Gwinny and Johnny. They find themselves on a ledge outside a hotel, high above the street.

5 It was one of the most horrible moments Caspar had known. He was perfectly sure that if either Johnny or Gwinny put their feet as well as their hands on the scaffold and completed the circuit, they could get an electric shock strong enough to kill them. But now they could not go. He was not going heavy himself. He thought, because of the way he had been laughing, he had put rather more flying potion on than the others. But it was obviously only a matter of minutes before that wore off too.

10 'Keep your feet off that thing!' he said to Johnny, and grabbed Gwinny round the waist. Behind the scaffold and the lighted lettering was a narrow ledge, which ran along the front of the hotel between two rows of windows. It looked about wide enough to take their feet. Caspar swam upwind, crabwise, to it, holding Gwinny clutched against him. She felt as heavy as lead. He managed to turn her round and push her on to the ledge, with her back against the wall of the hotel.

15 'Now don't dare move!' he said, and swam back for Johnny. Johnny was **lashing** his feet **frantically**, trying to use the last of his lightness to keep them clear of the scaffold. Caspar had to come at him sideways and grab him round the neck. By the time they reached the ledge, Johnny was making throttled noises and could only gasp and lean.

20 Then Caspar felt himself going heavy. He only had just time to turn round and back against the wall of the hotel before the potion left him and he went down on the ledge with a thump so heavy that he nearly overbalanced and fell off. It would have been a real fall too, all the way down to the street. The distance they were above ground, which had been exciting such a short time ago, now seemed **appalling**, Caspar shut his eyes and sweated.

25 'What shall we do?' said Gwinny. 'Shout for help?'

30 There were still crowds of people passing below, but they dared not bend their heads to look at them.

'Don't be a fool!' said Johnny. 'We'll get taken to a Police Station, and the next thing we know, the Ogre will be interrogating us in person.' He tried turning his head up to see how far they were away from the row of windows above, and nearly overbalanced. On top of clinging to the wall of the house, this was too much for him. His knees shook, and he felt giddy.

35 'Caspar, what shall we do?' said Gwinny.

'I think we'd better wait and see if Douglas comes back.' said Caspar.

40 'Oh no! Not him!' Johnny said faintly.

'But you said he'd come down by now,' **protested** Gwinny.

45 'And if he walks past underneath us, we won't see him. And if he goes on the other side of the road, he won't hear us. Besides, what good could he do?'

'I don't know,' said Caspar. 'But it's all I can think of.'

'I hate him,' objected Johnny.

50 'He's about the only person in the world who'll understand what's happened,' said Caspar. 'Except Malcolm, I suppose.'

'I hate him worse,' said Johnny.

55 Nevertheless, they settled down to wait. The gay street **twinkled and roared** around them. The Christmas lights **glittered**. Street signs winked on and off. People talked below, and laughed, and someone in the hotel played a piano rather badly. And solitary and unseen and stiff as statues, the three children stood on the ledge and waited, more hopelessly with every minute that passed.

Answer all the questions that follow.

1. Why couldn't Johnny or Gwinny let go of the scaffold?

(1 mark)

2. What did Caspar do to help Gwinny?

(1 mark)

3. Why did Caspar think he had put more flying potion on himself?

(1 mark)

4. What does the fact that Caspar was willing to swim upwind and crabwise to the ledge reveal about his character? Identify **two** characteristics.

(2 marks)

5. Underline the **five** sentences below which give accurate information:

The height above ground, which initially excited them, now seems terrifying.

The ledge they are on is wide enough to accommodate all three of them.

Caspar's knees shook because he was scared.

The distance from the ledge to the street below seemed less daunting than before.

Johnny suggests shouting for help as a viable option.

Caspar believes that Douglas might understand what has happened.

Malcolm is the only person in the world who will understand their situation.

The three children stand silently on the ledge, waiting hopelessly.

(10 marks)

6. Reread lines 6-11.

a) Identify a simile in this paragraph.

(1 mark)

b) Explain what the writer means through this simile.

(2 marks)

7. Describe what happens to Casper when the flying potion leaves him. Include **two** details.

(2 marks)

8. What does Johnny's strong dislike of Douglas and Malcolm suggest about what happened between them in the past?

(2 marks)

9. Reread lines 18-22.

a) Quote a phrase that shows us that Caspar was scared.

(1 mark)

b) **Using your own words**, describe the reasons why he was scared. Include **three** reasons.

(3 marks)

10. **Using your own words**, explain why Johnny's 'knees shook' from lines 28-31. Provide **three** reasons.

(3 marks)

11. What is the effect of the opening line '*It was one of the most frightening moments Caspar had known*' on the reader's understanding of the situation they had found themselves in? Underline the correct option:

It creates a sense of urgency and fear, drawing the reader into the gravity of the children's predicament.

It introduces a lighthearted tone, emphasizing the adventure the children are about to embark on. It suggests that the situation is manageable and not as serious as it initially seems.

It focuses on the physical details of the ledge and the hotel, setting the scene for the reader.

(1 mark)

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

i) 'lashing his feet frantically' (line 13)

(2 marks)

ii) 'now seemed appalling' (line 22)

(1 mark)

iii) v) 'Ogre'. (line 28)

(1 mark)

iv) 'twinkled and roared around them' (line 51)

(2 marks)

v) 'The Christmas lights glittered.' (line 52)

(1 marks)

13. Find a synonym from lines 51-55 that means the following:

lonely: _____

(1 mark)

14. Identify the verb tense used in the sentence: "He was not going heavy himself."

(1 mark)

15. Rewrite the sentence "He thought, because of the way he had been laughing, he had put rather more flying potion on than the others" in the past perfect tense.

(1 mark)

16. Antonyms

a) What is the opposite of 'hate'?

(1 mark)

b) Find an antonym for 'heavy'.

(1 mark)

c) Identify the opposite of 'stood'.

(1 mark)

17. What is the function of the word 'unseen' in the sentence 'And solitary and **unseen** and stiff as statues, the three children stood on the ledge and waited, more hopelessly with every minute that passed.' Circle the correct option from the ones below:

Subject

Verb

Adjective

Adverb

(1 mark)

18. Imagine you are a journalist talking to Caspar about his experiences that day. Based on the information in the extract, ask Caspar **six** questions.

e.g. How did you end up at the top of the building?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

(6 marks)

