

The English School



Mid-Entry Examination 2024

English – *Year 2*

Time Allowed: **1hour 15minutes**

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)

In the following extract we find ourselves on top of the skyscrapers of Estrella. The narrator, a Red, is taking part in a rooftop game where she is determined to win against the Blues.

Now I stand at the top alone. Below me, our skyscraper city glitters like a snowflake picked out in a million lights.

I'd never imagined Estrella was this big, this breathtaking, from above. But now I can see the symmetry of it all. The city's skyscrapers radiate from a central tower in eight perfect rows like spokes on a wheel, like the compass points they're named after. They reach into the distance, one hundred towers in every direction, connected by concentric tunnels for trains and pedestrians. And from up here, on top of Central – the midpoint and the tallest building of all – the whole thing looks more like a giant, frosted web than a star.

Star is a prettier image to sell, I guess. Estrella: the star city. Though most of us call it London Star. Because that's what this place is. Or was. London.

A voice crackles in my earpiece.

'Red 2, you're the last Red in the game. Get your token and get back down to the finish line.'

I don't want to leave – not yet. I need longer to take it all in: the space, the lights, the skyscrapers we call scrapers or towers, and the penthouses that perch on their tops, **private pools glistening beneath** domed glass roofs. Somewhere there's a penthouse sitting empty: the prize. A Level 1 apartment. Imagine that as an address!

I turn to look at one of the most famous addresses in London Star. The penthouse of the first skyscraper in the South arm: S1/1, the home of my hero, Hoppi Burbeck. Beneath the dome, his huge swimming pool shimmers green and blue, and a large stargazer telescope points down. I'd hoped to see him, but I knew I wouldn't. He doesn't appear in public, and on screen he wears filters for privacy; few people know what he really looks like.

My gaze sweeps over the rows of apartments below Burbeck's home, and I notice how the décor becomes increasingly ordinary as the wealth decreases. Increasingly bland and not as bright. Everything below Level 80 is swallowed by gloom, and the ground at the very bottom is so black it could be nothingness. Toxic oblivion: a wasteland where no human should go.

'Red 2. Time is running out.'

The warning voice jolts me into action. I quickly collect the Red token and tug at my abseil* rope, tied to Central's mast. When I'm certain it's secure, I shuffle backwards and climb over the edge of the roof. Above me, there's a spray of stars, like a reflection of the city on a black velvet ceiling.

Then slam! A Blue has done a running abseil round the underside of the scraper's lip. **They careen into me**, sending me spinning out into space then crashing back into the wall. The Red token slips from my grasp, but I manage to catch it, just, and I jam it into my mouth so my hands are free. The Blue is waiting for me to come to a standstill, so he – or she – can unclip me and send me down. I don't stop. Instead, I keep spinning, pushing my feet off the scraper and twisting myself round, feeding out my rope, freefalling through the air.

50 Through my earpiece, I hear the Blue – a female voice – tell me that **I’m in critical danger**, that she will help to steady me, and maybe we can do a deal. Become an undercover Blue, she suggests. I don’t trust her. So I keep on falling, out of control, swaying side to side, descending fast. **I plummet past windows** of warmth and safety – families in their living rooms, gym fanatics in exercise pods, kids in social hubs. My eyes are blurring, but my ears are trained on the Blues’ conversation: they’re discussing tactics. They’re discussing me, and only me.

So I’m the last Red, and my token really counts. If I don’t deliver it, the Blues will win.

Glossary

*abseil: descend a rock or other near vertical surface using a rope

Answer all the questions that follow.

1. Reread the opening two paragraphs.

Describe the view of Estrella. Include four details.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

(4 marks)

2. Use the information in the text to decide whether these statements are true or false.

	True	False
The prize for the game is a flat in London Star		
Hoppi Burbeck is the narrator of the story		
Hoppi Burbeck is poor		
If the narrator loses, her team will still win		

(4 marks)

3. a) **Using your own words**, explain what the narrator means when he says 'They careen into me.' (line 40)

(2 marks)

b) Explain how the narrator shows how much she wants to win this competition. Include 4 details.

(4 marks)

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

i. 'private pools glistening beneath.' (line 19)

(2 marks)

ii. 'The warning voice jolts me into action.' (line 36)

(2 marks)

iii. 'My gaze sweeps over' (line 29)

(2 marks)

5. Give the meaning of the underlined words in the following three phrases, as the writer uses them in the passage.

i. 'I'm in critical danger' (line 46)

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

(1 mark)

ii. 'I plummet past windows.' (line 49)

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

(1 mark)

6. Rewrite the sentence 'The Blue is waiting for me to come to a standstill' using the past tense.

(2 marks)

7. Choose the adjective in the following sentence.

'Become an undercover Blue,' she suggests.

- a. Become
- b. an
- c. undercover
- d. Blue
- e. she
- f. suggests

(1 mark)

Section B: Composition

(25 marks)

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

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story with the title 'The Climb'.

You should:

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

OR

Descriptive

2. Describe a city centre.

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.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

- ***This is the end of the examination -***