

The English School



Mid-Entry Examination 2024

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 dog named Beau.

It would be fair to say that Beau's life began one second before it almost ended.

He hadn't meant to stagger into the road, but he was hungry, starving in fact. The dustbins that lined Balham's alleyways had been mercilessly empty all week, leaving him light-headed and woozy, and his legs feeling like they were detached from the rest of his body.

- 5 This was why he tottered from the kerb onto the busy high street: why he found himself staring at the approaching lorry, hypnotised by the eyes of a huge metal monster, which roared and howled as it bore down on him.

He should have moved, he knew that. He'd survived on the streets for years so was adept at darting suddenly from danger, but this time, he didn't. Or couldn't.

- 10 The monster's lights held him, trance-like, drawing him deeper into their blinding depths. It blared a warning: a long, tuneless growl, but instead of galvanising Beau, it paralysed him.

He didn't want it to end like this. Of course he didn't. He wasn't old, or bitter. He didn't hate the world or the people who lived in it. But he was tired. Dog-tired. And his legs simply didn't understand either the gravity of the situation, or the simplicity of the order being sent by his brain.

- 15 So he continued to sit, glowing brighter with every passing moment. Neither cowering nor whimpering. He just watched as the lights enveloped him in an angelic hue, forcing his eyes to narrow and close.

But as he shut out the world one final time, he felt it shift, and then capsize, as two hands gripped his belly, wrenching him sideways, pulling the air clean out of him as the lorry roared one final disdainful roar.

- 20 Beau rolled, pulled tight into his saviour, and saw the landscape pirouette as they both dived for the safety of the gutter while the lorry tore by. What had just happened, he wondered, and whose hands were they, gripping him tightly still?

The dog tensed, trying to see who was holding him, but was clutched so closely to their chest that he could see nothing at all. He panicked. He didn't trust humans; he wanted to, but after all that had

- 25 happened to him, he couldn't take the risk.

His entire body went rigid, but those hands held on. He bucked and writhed, expecting the human to become angry quickly, like they always had in the past. He waited for the hands to strike him, or the voice to shout, but neither came. Instead, his head was pulled into the nape of the human's neck, and a single finger gently scratched at a spot that had been troubling him for days.

- 30 If that wasn't enough to allow his tension to subside, there came a voice, not one of a grown human (who were always the worst, in his experience) but of a child.

'Steady on,' said the girl. 'Nuffin' to be scared of, is there? I got you, Beautiful. Just in time too, by the looks of it.'

- 35 Beau's legs stopped resisting all together, as the single finger became two, three then four, finding every itch and dry spot on his wiry back. Heaven.

The voice continued, singing softly in his ear. 'It's all right, Beautiful,' it repeated, 'it's all right.' And it was such a simple, heartfelt lullaby, that the dog relented, all fear and distrust forgotten. Within seconds, he was sound asleep.

Answer all the questions that follow.

1. What was Beau's initial situation before he staggered into the road? Provide two details.

(2 marks)

2. i. Who saved Beau from the lorry's impact?

(1 mark)

ii. In your own words explain how Beau reacted to their touch and voice.

(2 marks)

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

i. 'He hadn't meant to stagger into the road, but was hungry, starving in fact' (line 2)

(2 marks)

ii. 'but instead of galvanising Beau, it paralysed him' (line 11)

(2 marks)

iii. 'as the lorry roared one final disdainful roar' (line 18)

(2 marks)

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

So he continued to sit, glowing brighter with every passing moment. Neither cowering nor whimpering. He just watched as the lights enveloped him in an angelic hue, forcing his eyes to narrow and close.

i. Cowering: _____

ii. Whimpering: _____

iii. Enveloped: _____

(3 marks)

5. Choose **one** phrase or short quote from the text below and explain **how the writer uses language** to suggest Beau is losing control.

The monster's lights held him, trance-like, drawing him deeper into their blinding depths. It blared a warning: a long, tuneless growl, but instead of galvanising Beau, it paralysed him. He didn't want it to end like this.

You could look at:

- vocabulary choices
- verb choices
- adjectives
- imagery.

Use your own words in your explanation.

(3 marks)

6. Discuss the contrast between the lorry and the child. What does this contrast reveal about human nature?

(2 marks)

7. What role does trust play in Beau's transformation from fear to relaxation?

(2 marks)

8. Using your own words, summarise what Beau'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 with the title 'Betrayal'.

You should:

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

OR

Descriptive

2. Describe a city centre on a hot day.

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.

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