

The English School



Mid-Entry Examination 2025

English – *Year 3*

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)

Read the following passage and then answer the questions which follow:



It was late in the evening when I made my way to the old churchyard by the sea. The sun had already set, and the sky was filled with dark, rolling clouds. The air smelled of salt and damp earth, and the sound of the waves crashing against the shore echoed in the distance. The churchyard was a lonely place, surrounded by high stone walls, with gravestones leaning at odd angles, some half-covered in ivy. It was the kind of place that seemed to hold secrets, and I had been drawn to it again and again.

The mystery had taken hold of me, and I could not leave it alone. For weeks now, I had been trying to uncover the truth about the hidden treasure that people spoke of in whispers. Some said it was buried in the churchyard, others claimed it lay somewhere near the cliffs. But no one knew for sure, and that uncertainty only made the mystery more irresistible. I had asked everyone I could think of—locals, travelers, even old fishermen—but no one would give me a straight answer. And so I was left with nothing but my own determination and the gnawing feeling that the truth was right there, just out of reach.

As I stood at the entrance of the churchyard, I hesitated. The wind had picked up, and the sea seemed to be calling me, but the path before me was dark and forbidding. The old church, with its crumbling stone walls, loomed ahead like some forgotten monument, its roof missing in places, exposing the bones of the building to the sky. There was no sign of life—no sounds of birds, no movement from within. Everything was still.

I knew I should turn back. My heart pounded in my chest, and the hairs on the back of my neck stood up. But the thought of the treasure, of the answers I had been seeking for so long, kept me moving forward. Every step I took felt heavier, as if the weight of the mystery was pressing down on me, urging me onward.

The churchyard was more eerie at night, and the darkness seemed to grow thicker the deeper I ventured. Shadows stretched unnaturally across the ground, and the moon, barely visible through the clouds, cast an eerie glow on the tombstones. Each step I took felt as if it brought me closer to something—something I could not quite see but felt lurking just beyond the edge of my vision. The air grew colder, and I wrapped my coat tighter around me, trying to shake the uneasy feeling that something was watching me.

And then I saw it—half-hidden beneath the roots of an old oak tree, a stone slab, different from the others. I had seen it before, but now, in the pale moonlight, it looked more... significant.

My heart skipped a beat. This was it. The treasure had to be here. The question was, how had no one else noticed it?

I crouched down, my fingers brushing against the stone. There was a faint engraving on it, almost worn away by time, but still visible if you looked closely. I could feel my pulse quicken as I traced the letters. They were a clue—perhaps the final clue I had been waiting for.

Answer all the questions that follow.

1. Reread the first paragraph.

Give four details that describe the setting of the churchyard.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

(4 marks)

2. Using your own words, explain what we learn about the narrator's feelings toward the treasure.

(2 marks)

3. Explain what the writer means by the phrase:

"Every step I took felt heavier, as if the weight of the mystery was pressing down on me."

(2 marks)

4. Give the meaning of the following words or phrases as used in the passage:

i. "loomed ahead like some forgotten monument"

Meaning: _____

(1 mark)

ii. "the darkness seemed to grow thicker"

Meaning: _____

(1 mark)

iii. "the air smelled of salt and damp earth"

What does this tell us about the setting?

(2 marks)

5. How does the writer create a sense of mystery and suspense in the passage? Give four examples.

(4 marks)

6. What do we learn about the narrator's character from the passage? Give two points and explain them.

(2 marks)

7. Using your own words describe the narrator's reaction when they find the stone slab.

(2 marks)

8. Why do you think the narrator keeps returning to the churchyard?

(2 marks)

9. What do you think might happen next in the story? Give your own opinion and explain why.

(3 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: 'The Secret Beneath the Tree'.

You should:

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

OR

Descriptive

2. Describe an unfamiliar, old mysterious place.

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]



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

