



ALDENHAM SCHOOL

13 + Entrance Paper

Sample Paper 2009

ENGLISH

Length of examination – One hour

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

This examination consists of two parts:

Answer **all** questions in Section A

Answer **one** question in Section B

Start each section on a new piece of paper

Remember to write your full name and school on each piece of paper you use.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A is worth 25 marks

Section B is worth 25 marks

Section A: Comprehension

Read the following passage very carefully. Then answer all the questions in Section A

Destination Unknown

1. It was a fresh, sunny morning in July. Big puffballs of cloud rolled lazily across the sky from the west. In a lay-by at the side of the main road, a grey squirrel was sitting on the edge of the rubbish bin, carefully nibbling at a stale piece of cake which it had found.
2. A little farther down the road was a boy with not many months to go before he reached the age of sixteen. At his feet was a battered old suitcase. He was tallish, fair-haired, and well built with a friendly, squarish face - heavily freckled under his sun-tan - a pressed-in smudge of a nose and a pair of angelic blue eyes which, when he put on his special smile, made him look as though butter wouldn't melt in his mouth. From the cheerful grin on his face as he waved to the traffic it would have been difficult to believe that that morning early he had given the police the slip for the second time in the last six months. He was wanted by them for running away from an approved school. Although his friends called him Smiler his real name was Samuel Miles. Actually he preferred Samuel M., because that was what his father called him. That, too, was what he called himself when he gave himself a good talking-to - which he often did when he had some problem to face. And on this sunny July morning Smiler really did have a problem to face because by now the police forces of Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and a few other counties were all on the lookout for him.
3. "Unless, Samuel M.," he told himself, "you pick up a lift soon and get out of this area some police car is going to come along and pick you up. And then, my lad, you'll be sunk for good and all."
4. It was at this moment that a long, high-cabbed white lorry came down the road towards him. Smiler gave it a wave and a cheery grin automatically. To his surprise the lorry pulled up slowly just beyond him. Smiler ran down the road to it.
5. The driver leaned over and opened the nearside cab door. He was a round-faced man of about forty with an old white cap perched on the back of his head, the peak pushed up at a sharp angle. He wore green overalls, had a broad smile on his face, and alongside him on the bench seat sat a largish black dog with a white patch on its chest and a large grin on its face.
6. The driver said, "Where you headin' for, son?"
Smiler said, "I dunno, exactly."
The driver chuckled. "Destination unknown. Good as any. Hop in. You're the second this morning."
Smiler swung his case and then himself up into the cab and closed the door. The lorry moved off down the road.
7. Smiler, who was polite by nature and by policy, said, "Thank you very much, sir."
The driver chuckled. It was a nice, friendly, happy sound. "Strictly 'gainst company rules. But all rules is made to be broken at times. You want to sit and brood over your worries or listen to the radio or talk? Take your choice. All the same to me."
Smiler said, "I don't mind talking, sir."
8. "Wise choice," said the driver. "Silence is golden but weighs heavy. The radio is full of woe - or pop music which is worse. But talk is human and friendly. Also, don't call me `sir'. I'm Bob Peach. Peachy my friends call me, but you stick to Mr. Bob till I tell you you've served your time which - " he winked - " could be anything from an hour to a hundred years 'cording to the way things go."
"Yes, Mr. Bob," said Smiler.
"Well then," said Bob Peach, "go ahead."
"Go ahead what?" asked Smiler.
"Go ahead and talk. That's your choice. You got to start. Only fair."
Smiler, a little unsure of Bob Peach, was silent for a moment and then said, "What did you mean that I'm the second this morning?"

Section A: Questions (25 marks)

Spent 30 minutes of this section

Remember to refer to the passage to support your answers. Answer all questions in full sentences.

- 1) How does the passage open? How are the sky and environment described? (2 marks)
- 2) From the second paragraph give a detailed description of how Smiler is described. What information is the reader given about his characterisation? Would you trust him? Give reasons for your answer. (8 marks)
- 3) From the dialogue between Smiler and Bob Peach in paragraphs six and seven what impression do you gain of Bob Peach? Give detailed reasons for your answer. (10 marks)
- 4) What metaphor is used in the eighth section? What is the effect of the metaphor? How does it help the reader picture the scene? (5 marks)

Section B (25 marks)

Spent 30 minutes on this section

Please start this section on a separate sheet of paper. Put your name on the sheet.

In this section you will be given marks for the following areas.

Spelling

Punctuation

Grammar

Paragraphing and structure

Content and ideas

Answer ONE of the following questions.

- 1) Imagine you are the author, what happens next to Smiler? Write a continuation of this extract.
- 2) Write a creative piece entitled 'Mysterious Journey'