REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# 11+ Entrance Examination

# January 2018

# ENGLISH

SAMPLE

Time allowed: 60 Minutes

Write your name in the box below:

Name: ……

# English 11+ Exam – Reading Section (30 minutes)

**Read this passage carefully and then answer the questions in the answer booklet.**

Down went Stan through the terraced streets, past the Shipwright's Arms and the Salvation Army hostel and the Oxfam shop and the shuffling men. He ran across the waste ground to the fair. It was huge and noisy and bright, and the merry-go-rounds were turning, but it was still early, so hardly anybody was there. Just a **handful** of truants, a couple of women pushing ancient buggies, more glum-looking **shuffling** men, and the fairground folk themselves, with gold teeth and shocks of hair, silver studs **glinting** in their cheeks and bags of chinking coins around their waists. They leaned on their rides and their stalls, swigged mugs of tea and smoked strange-smelling cigarettes. They stared at Stan as he stepped shyly by. They **muttered** together in strange accents. They coughed and cursed and spat and roared with laughter.

Stan rode a merry-go-round all **alone** and he spun on the waltzer all alone. All alone he rose into the air on the Ferris wheel. He looked down on his world: the river, the terraced streets, the spaces where all the shipyards and the factories used to be. He saw his old school, St Mungo's, and all the kids playing in the playground. He saw his own home in Fish Quay Lane. He saw the steam from his uncle's machines seething through its roof. Round he went, up and down, round and round and up and down. He saw the distant city and the distant mountains. He saw the glittering lovely sea going on for ever, the deep blue lovely sky going on for ever. He thought of his aunt and uncle and he gave thanks for them. He imagined the world beyond the sea and the universe beyond the sky, and his head reeled at the **vastness** of it all and the astonishingness of it all.

'The Boy who Swam with Piranhas' – David Almond

SAMPLE

**Answer the following questions. Use full sentences when you are asked to do so.**

1. The following words are used in the extract. Give the meaning of each one. (3 marks)

| Word | Meaning |
|---|---|
| Shuffling (line 6) | |
| Glinting (line 7) | |
| Vastness (line 23) | |

2. These words are also used in the extract. Give another word or phrase for each one which has a similar meaning. (3 marks)

| Word | Another word or phrase with a similar meaning |
|---|---|
| Handful (line 5) | |
| Muttered (line 10) | |
| Alone (line 13) | |

SAMPLE

3. Draw a line to match each word to its correct meaning. (4 marks)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ancient | | Repeated rows of structures. |
| Accent | | Extremely old. |
| Terraced | | A distinctive way of pronouncing words. |
| Glum | | Unhappy. |

SAMPLE

4. Read the following lines from the extract:

   "Just a handful of truants, a couple of women pushing ancient buggies, more glum-looking shuffling men, and the fairground folk themselves, with gold teeth and shocks of hair, silver studs glinting in their cheeks and bags of chinking coins around their waists." (Lines 5 to 8)

   Identify three adjectives from this section and write them in the table. (3 marks)

| |
|---|
| 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |

5. Read line 10 from the extract again: "They stared at Stan as he stepped shyly by." What is suggested about Stan from this sentence? (2 marks)

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|---|
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6. Read lines 14 to 16 from the extract again: "He looked down on his world: the river, the terraced streets, the spaces where all the shipyards and the factories used to be." What is suggested about this town? (2 marks)

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SAMPLE

7. Explain what is meant in lines 17 and 18 by this personification: “He saw the steam from his uncle’s machines seething through its roof.” (2 marks)

8. In lines 18 and 19 the writer says: “Round he went, up and down, round and round and up and down.” Why do you think the writer has used repetition here? Answer using a full sentence. (2 marks)

SAMPLE

9. Read this section from the text:

"He saw the distant city and the distant mountains. He saw the glittering lovely sea going on for ever, the deep blue lovely sky going on for ever. He thought of his aunt and uncle and he gave thanks for them. He imagined the world beyond the sea and the universe beyond the sky, and his head reeled at the vastness of it all and the astonishingness of it all." (Lines 19 to 24)

How does the writer emphasise the character's emotions here?

Please choose two examples and explain each one. Please use full sentences. There is a completed example to help you. (4 marks)

SAMPLE

| Example | Explanation |
|---|---|
| “the distant city” | In this quotation, the character seems to be quite sad. This is emphasised by the word ‘distant’ because it suggests that he would rather be in the far away city than where he actually is. |
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SAMPLE

**END OF READING QUESTIONS.**

**TURN OVER FOR THE WRITING SECTION.**

# English 11+ Creative Writing Section

**You should spend 30 minutes on this section.**

**Use the planning page to plan before you begin. Aim to use around five minutes to plan.**

**When you write, remember to check:**

- Spelling;
- Paragraphing;
- Punctuation;
- Descriptive techniques;
- Detailed description and interesting vocabulary;
- Using similes and metaphors that are appropriate to the story, setting and character.

**Choose ONE of the tasks on the next page and write your story on the pages that follow.**

SAMPLE

1. Write a story with the title: The Best Weekend.

   You could write about a time you have experienced or use your imagination and create a fictional story. (25 marks)

**OR**

2. Use this image to help you write a story which starts with this sentence: "The weather forecast had not mentioned anything like this." (25 marks)



**END OF QUESTIONS**

PLANNING PAGE

SAMPLE

Write your story on the following pages.

SAMPLE