SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 7 (11+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
January 2023
for entry in September 2023

ENGLISH

Name: _____

School: _____

Time allowed: 5 minutes reading time, then 1 hour exam.
You are advised to spend approximately 35 minutes on Section A and 25 minutes on section B.

Equipment needed: Pen and lined paper

Information for candidates:

1. Dictionaries are NOT allowed.
2. Write your name and school on this page.
3. You may NOT make notes on this exam paper during the 5 minutes of reading time. After the first 5 minutes of reading time you may write on this paper.
4. Write your answers on the separate paper provided. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use. Answer both Section A and Section B.
5. You should write in full sentences and pay attention to both spelling and punctuation.
6. The paper will be marked out of 35. The marks for each question are indicated in the square brackets [ ].

SECTION A

(Total marks available for this section are 20)

Read the extract below, taken from Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula*, and answer ALL the questions that follow:

By and by, however, as I was curious to know how time was passing, I struck a match, and by its flame looked at my watch; it was within a few minutes of midnight. This gave me a sort of shock, for I suppose the general superstition about midnight was increased by my recent experiences. I waited with a sick feeling of suspense.

Then a dog began to howl somewhere in a farmhouse far down the road – a long, agonized wailing, as if from fear. The sound was taken up by another dog, and then another and another, till, borne on the wind which now sighed softly through the Pass[1], a wild howling began, which seemed to come from all over the country, as far as the imagination could grasp it through the gloom of the night. At the first howl the horses began to strain and rear, but the driver spoke to them soothingly, and they quieted down, but shivered and sweated as though after a runaway from sudden fright. Then, far off in the distance, from the mountains on each side of us began a louder and a sharper howling – that of wolves – which affected both the horses and myself in the same way – for I was minded to jump from the calèche[2] and run, whilst they reared again and plunged madly, so that the driver had to use all his great strength to keep them from bolting. In a few minutes, however, my own ears got accustomed to the sound, and the horses so far became quiet that the driver was able to descend and to stand before them. He petted and soothed them, and whispered something in their ears, as I have heard of horse-tamers doing, and with extraordinary effect, for under his caresses they became quite manageable again, though they still trembled. The driver again took his seat, and shaking his reins, started off at a great pace. This time, after going to the far side of the Pass, he suddenly turned down a narrow roadway which ran sharply to the right.

Soon we were hemmed in with trees, which in places arched right over the roadway till we passed as through a tunnel; and again great frowning rocks guarded us boldly on either side. Though we were in shelter, we could hear the rising wind, for it moaned and whistled through the rocks, and the branches of the trees crashed together as we swept along. It grew colder and colder still, and fine, powdery snow began to fall, so that soon we and all around us were covered with a white blanket. The keen wind still carried the howling of the dogs, though this grew fainter as we went on our way. The baying of the wolves sounded nearer and nearer, as though they were closing round on us from every side. I grew dreadfully afraid, and the horses shared my fear; but the driver was not in the least disturbed. He kept turning his head to left and right, but I could not see anything through the darkness.

[1] A gap between two mountains.

[2] A horse-drawn carriage.

1. What is the time at the start of the passage and why is this significant? [2 marks]

2. There are many kinds of sound in this passage. Write down three examples and explain what each example adds to the atmosphere of the passage. [8 marks]

3. What does the writer do to make the passage tense and frightening? In your answer, you should focus on:

   a) The description of setting.
   b) The description of the weather.
   c) The actions of the characters.

   Give examples from the passage to support your ideas and comment on how the writer uses language. [10 marks]

SECTION B
(*Total marks available for this section are 15*)

Choose **ONE** option:

EITHER

1. Imagine that you are the writer of the passage. Continue the story, describing what happens to you next. [15 marks]

OR

2. Describe a place at midnight. Think about how your setting can be used to create atmosphere. [15 marks]