



# Year 7 Entrance Examination

## English Sample Paper

Time allowed: 1 hour

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Answer all the questions.

Answer Section 1 and Section 2 on this answer booklet and Section 3 on lined paper.

You should spend approximately 40 minutes on Sections 1 and 2 and 20 minutes on Section 3.

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Name:

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## SECTION 1: COMPREHENSION PASSAGE

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions.

### The Bonfire

All the chairs and sofas were somehow erected into a bonfire, and the hideous Guy that had done such a good begging job was hoisted to the very top and posed there on a chair with three legs. A rocket was stuck in the Guy's arms and a sparkler on his head. From somewhere, Jack conjured up a tin of paraffin, and he struck the first match, while others shoved and grabbed, trying to get at the matchbox.

At one moment, the bombsite had been a dark, bare area with a few shadowy figures lugging heavy objects, and then, as the match tickled up the paraffin, fire leapt out. In a moment, the whole place was a wild inferno of crackling flames, jumping squibs, shooting rockets, bouncing bangers and whizzers.

Up, up shot the flames, sending great sprays and showers into the night. All the old chairs, full of woodworm, beetle and dry horse hair, caught like tinder and made a glowing core to the fire. Whizzers and bangers were now going off all over the place, exploding like jumping jacks in the very middle of the crowd, and starting yells of dismay and small fights. Small girls ran away and were pursued. All the windows in the houses around the site had shot up, and their inhabitants were yelling protests and complaints, but not one of the children listened. Some of the more understanding of the adults saw the fun of the fire, but the angry ones rang up the police, the fire brigade, the Vicar or anyone else they fancied.

Jack and his gang were in their glory! For weeks they had been planning this night, counting their pennies and dreaming of rockets. Their faces and hands were by now, if possible, blacker than usual. As the rockets went up and broke into a myriad of coloured stars, red, green and orange, their hearts seemed to soar too and explode in sparks of pleasure.

Circle the correct letter on this answer booklet for each of the following questions. Questions 1 - 7 are worth one mark each.

1. What was the bonfire made from?
  - a. wood
  - b. chairs and sofas
  - c. dry grass and branches from trees
  - d. a mixture of old newspapers, coal and twigs
  
2. How does Jack light the bonfire?
  - a. He uses paraffin and a lighter
  - b. He rubs two sticks together
  - c. He uses a match and paraffin
  - d. He did not light the bonfire
  
3. Which of the following statements is most accurate?
  - a. The fire took a long time to start
  - b. The fire was tiny and feeble
  - c. Jack and his gang were frightened of the fire
  - d. The fire started very quickly and soon there were large flames
  
4. Why did small girls run away?
  - a. Because the boys were chasing them
  - b. Because they were called by their mothers
  - c. Because some of the fireworks were exploding and chasing them
  - d. Because they wanted to find some matches
  
5. Which word is closest in meaning to 'hideous' (line 2)?
  - a. ugly
  - b. interesting
  - c. valuable
  - d. boring
  
6. Which word is closest in meaning to 'inferno' (line 10)?
  - a. mess
  - b. hellfire
  - c. mixture
  - d. collection
  
7. What is the meaning of 'a myriad of coloured stars' (line 26)?
  - a. a very great number of coloured stars
  - b. a few coloured stars
  - c. an explosion of coloured stars
  - d. an awe inspiring view of coloured stars

**Answer the following question as fully as possible in complete sentences.**

8. What does 'lugging' mean in the second paragraph? Why do you think that this is a good word to use here? (2 marks)

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9. Look at the first sentence of paragraph 3. 'Up, up shot the flames, sending great sprays and showers into the night.' Explain why this is an exciting description and why the author chose to use these particular words. (4 marks)

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10. Who is the leader of the gang? Give two pieces of evidence from the passage to prove this. (2 marks)

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**(Total of 15 Marks for Section 1)**

**SECTION 2: USE OF LANGUAGE**

1. Choose the most appropriate verb from the list below for each of the following situations. Use each of the verbs only **once**.

- sidle      amble      totter      trudge
- stagger    strut      march      lurch

- a. A baby just learning to walk  
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- b. A drunk man walking down the street  
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- c. A weary farmer returning home through the mud  
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- d. Two teenagers guiltily approaching someone  
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- e. Someone who has just been shot  
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- f. A lazy walk in the country  
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- g. A model walking down the catwalk  
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- h. Someone going to the manager of a hotel to make a strong complaint  
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(8 marks)

2. Either a comma or a full stop is missing from the following sentences. Insert the correct punctuation and capital letters clearly in the right places.

- a. As the boys watched a flash of fire appeared at the root of one of the trees.
- b. She looked at her watch it was five o' clock.
- c. Climbing the mountain he lost all idea of time.
- d. All boats using the estuary must pay harbour fees boat parking on the beach is available.
- e. As he stood on the deck the boy saw his shipmates waving.

f. The rain dripped from the trees water stood in pools on the gravel path.

(6 marks)

3. Put the correct word in each sentence. Use each of the following words only once.

of	on	in	from	about
by	at	to	for	with

- a. You cannot rely.....the British weather.
- b. Please refrain.....putting your feet on the tables.
- c. Young people sometimes complain.....life.
- d. I am not encouraged.....your progress.
- e. Zed's latest album is very similar..... his last one.
- f. We are all very proud..... your achievements.
- g. Don was not satisfied.....Jenny's explanation.
- h. Do not interfere.....other people's business.
- i. France has a reputation.....good food.
- j. John cannot help being slow so please do not laugh.....him.

(10 marks)

4. Underline **one** word in **each** bracket which correctly completes each sentence.

- a. The building (sight, site) which we (passed, past) each morning was a (sight, site). (3 marks)
- b. My tooth is so (loose, lose) that I don't know (whether, weather)it will fall out. (2 marks)
- c. (Practice, practise) makes perfect. (1 mark)
- d. I should (of, have, off) known better than to (of, have, off ) knocked the cup over. (2 marks)
- e. There is the girl to (which, who, whom ) I gave my (knew, new) coat. (2 marks)

**(Total of 34 marks for Section 2)**

## **SECTION THREE: COMPOSITION**

Choose one of the following and write an essay on the lined paper provided. Aim to write one to two sides. Take great care with the accuracy of your work. Write in a lively, imaginative and detailed way.

1. Write a DESCRIPTION of either
  - a. The Countryside in Winter
  - or
  - b. My House at Christmas

When writing a description you should include details of sights, sounds, tastes, smells and how things feel. You should make your description believable and interesting by using a varied vocabulary. Aim to create a picture in the mind of the person reading your description.

2. Write a creative story entitled 'The Black House'.
3. Write a creative story entitled 'Lost in the Snow'.

A creative story should be well organised, exciting and imaginative. The person reading it should be able to understand what is happening so it must also be clear. You should describe where the action is taking place and create interesting characters. Do not include too much conversation.

(Total of 25 marks for Section 3)