



11+ ENGLISH

SAMPLE EXAMINATION PAPER

45 minutes.

This extract is from *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. Read the passage carefully and complete the tasks that follow.

“Hold your noise!” cried a terrible voice, as a man started up from among the graves at the side of the church porch.

“Keep still, you little devil, or I’ll cut your throat!”

A fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg. A man with no hat, and with broken shoes, and with an old rag tied round his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, and lamed by stones, and cut by flints, and stung by nettles, and torn by briars; who limped, and shivered, and glared and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me by the chin.

“O! Don’t cut my throat, sir,” I pleaded in terror. “Pray don’t do it, sir.”

“Tell us your name!” said the man. “Quick!”

“Pip, sir.”

“Once more,” said the man, staring at me. “Give it mouth!”

“Pip. Pip, sir.”

“Show us where you live,” said the man. “Pint out the place!”

I pointed to where our village lay, on the flat in-shore among the alder-trees and pollards, a mile or more from the church.

The man, after looking at me for a moment, turned me upside-down, and emptied my pockets. There was nothing in them but a piece of bread. When the church came to itself for he was so sudden and strong that he made it go head over heels before me, and I saw the steeple under my feet – when the church came to itself, I say, I was seated on a high tombstone, trembling, while he ate the bread ravenously.

TASK A – COMPREHENSION

Please use **your answer sheet** to complete these multiple choice questions.

- 1) In the passage, it is clear that Pip is:
 - a) a schoolteacher
 - b) a young man
 - c) a young girl
 - d) an old man
 - e) none of the above

- 2) The scene is set:
 - a) Inside a church
 - b) In a village square
 - c) Near a church graveyard
 - d) In Pip's home
 - e) On a busy street

- 3) What does the phrase "Hold your noise!" mean in the context of the passage?
 - a) Be quiet
 - b) Cover your ears
 - c) Make more sound
 - d) Hold your breath
 - e) Carry the bag

- 4) The man is described as having "a great iron on his leg." What does this suggest about him?
 - a) He is a blacksmith by trade
 - b) He has been injured in an accident
 - c) He is an escaped prisoner
 - d) He works with metal tools
 - e) He has a medical condition

- 5) The word "steeple" refers to:
 - a) A type of gravestone
 - b) The church spire
 - c) A wooden fence
 - d) The church door
 - e) A bell

- 6) The phrase "terrible voice" suggests the man's voice was:
 - a) Loud and frightening
 - b) Sad and mournful
 - c) Weak and quiet
 - d) Musical and pleasant
 - e) Deep and resonant

7) The word "pleaded" suggests Pip spoke:

- a) Angrily and defiantly
- b) Calmly and rationally
- c) Desperately and beseechingly
- d) Proudly and confidently
- e) Quietly and secretively

8) The phrase "whose teeth chattered in his head" indicates the man was:

- a) Angry and aggressive
- b) Cold and possibly ill
- c) Excited and happy
- d) Trying to speak quickly
- e) Eating something hard

TASK B - WRITING

Continue the story **in your own words**. In your writing, show that you have thought about:

- the characters we meet in the passage
- where the story is set
- the way the writer uses language to bring his scene to life