

Candidate number	
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BURY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
AGE 3-18

Previous Entrance Exam

English Paper

Time: 1 hour and 10 minutes

Read the following instructions carefully before you begin:

- You have a total of **one hour and 10 minutes** to complete this examination.
- **Section A** is based on the given extract (pages 2 and 3) and will test your **reading** skills.
- **Section B** will assess your **writing** skills.
- There are **30 marks** available for Section A and **20 marks** available for Section B.
- You will spend **40 minutes** on Section A and **30 minutes** on Section B.
- Leave 5 minutes at the end of the test to check your work.
- Ensure that you have written your candidate number clearly at the start of **both** sections.

The following extract is the opening to a novel called 'The Kingdom by the Sea' by Robert Westall. The story is set during the Second World War.

This extract describes the main character, Harry, leaving his house during an air raid (a bombing attack from the air). Following this extract, the main character's house is destroyed in the air raid.

1 He was an old hand at air raids now.

2 As the yell of the siren climbed the sky, he came smoothly out of his dreams. Not
3 scared. Only his stomach clamped down tight for action, as his hands found his
4 clothes laid ready in the dark. Hauled one jumper, then another, over his pyjamas.
5 Thrust both stockinged feet together through his trousers and into his shoes. Then
6 bent to tie his laces thoroughly. A loose lace had tripped him once, in the race to the
7 shelter. He remembered the smashing blow as the ground hit his chin; the painful
8 week after, not able to eat with a bitten tongue.

9 He grabbed his school raincoat off the door, pulling the door wide at the same time.
10 All done by feel; no need to put the light on. Lights were dangerous.

11 He passed Dulcie's door, heard mam and Dulcie muttering to each other, Dulcie
12 sleepy and cross, Mam sharp and urgent. Then he thundered downstairs, the crack
13 of light from the kitchen door lighting up the edge of each stair-tread. Dad was sitting
14 in his warden's uniform, hauling on his big black boots, his grey hair standing up
15 vertically in a bunch. Without looking up, Dad said 'That Hitler again! Four nights in a
16 row!'

17 There was a strong smell of Dad's sweaty feet. That was all Harry had time to notice;
18 he had his own job; the two objects laid ready in the chair by the door. The big roll of
19 blankets, wrapped in a groundsheet because the shelter was damp, done up with a
20 big leather strap of Dad's. And Mam's precious attaché case with the flask of hot
21 coffee and insurance policies and other important things, and the little bottle of
22 brandy for emergencies. He heaved the blankets on to his back, picked up the case
23 with one hand and reached to unlock the back door with the other.

24 'Mind that light', said Dad automatically. But Harry's hand was already reaching for
25 the switch. He'd done it all a hundred times before.

26 He slammed the door behind him, held his breath and listened. A single aircraft's
27 engines, far out to sea. Vroomah, vroomah, vroomah. A Jerry. But nothing to worry
28 about yet. Two guns fired, one after another. Two brilliant points of white, lighting up
29 a black landscape of greenhouse, sweet-pea trellises and cucumber-frames. A
30 rolling carpet of echoes. Still out to sea. Safe, then.

31 He ran down the long back garden, with his neck prickling and the blankets bouncing
32 against his back comfortingly. As he passed the greenhouse the rabbits thumped
33 their heels in alarm. There was a nice cold smell of dew and cabbages. Then he was
34 in through the shelter door, shoving the damp, mould-stinking curtain aside.

Reading skills

You will be assessed on your reading skills in this part of the paper. You will spend **40 minutes** on this section.

Read the extract from the novel 'The Kingdom by the Sea' carefully, and answer all of the questions that follow.

Comprehension

These questions test your understanding of the meaning of what you have read.

For each question, choose the correct answer from the options A, B, C or D and **circle** your choice.

1. Why has a siren sounded?

- A. There is a fire
- B. There is an air raid
- C. There is a robbery
- D. There is a police car

2. Why is Harry getting dressed?

- A. The siren means that he needs to go outside
- B. He is cold
- C. He is getting ready for school
- D. It is time for him to go to work

3. How does Harry feel at the start of the extract?

- A. Prepared
- B. Scared
- C. Excited
- D. Happy

4. How does Harry's father feel about Hitler and the air raids?

- A. Scared and anxious
- B. Bored and lazy
- C. Happy and excited
- D. Angry and frustrated

5. What 'job' is Harry referring to on line 18?

- A. He works in an office
- B. Going to school
- C. Helping his family get to the air raid shelter
- D. Protecting his family from the air raid

Inference and writer's craft

These questions test your ability to think more deeply about what you have read, and to think about the effects of the writer's choices.

Some questions have more than one correct answer; you should choose the **one** option that you feel answers the question best.

For each question, select your chosen answer from the options A, B, C or D and **circle** your choice.

6. Why does the writer begin by telling the reader that 'He was an old hand at air raids now'?

- A. To tell the reader that the air raids have happened many times before
- B. To grip the reader
- C. To show that Harry enjoys air raids
- D. To begin to suggest that Harry is confident about the situation

7. Why does the writer use the word 'yell' to describe the siren?

- A. The writer is showing that the siren is shouting
- B. The writer is emphasising that the noise is loud
- C. The writer is hinting that the situation might be dangerous or frightening
- D. The writing is showing that it is dark outside

8. Which technique is used in the following phrase: 'the siren climbed the sky'?

- A. Simile
- B. Metaphor
- C. Onomatopoeia
- D. Adjective

9. Why does the writer start two sentences with verbs in lines 7 and 8?

- A. The writer is showing that Harry is happy
- B. The writer is showing that Harry has just woken up
- C. The writer is emphasising that Harry has many actions to complete in a limited time
- D. The writer is emphasising Harry's haste and suggesting that the actions are almost automatic

10. Why might the writer have included Harry's memory of the 'smashing blow' when he tripped over his laces?

- A. The writer wishes to foreshadow something dangerous happening later in the story
- B. The writer is showing that Harry has had bad experiences before
- C. The writer is teaching the reader to always tie their laces
- D. The writer is illustrating to the reader how good Harry's memory is

11. Why does Mam act in a way that is ‘sharp and urgent’?

- A. She is bored
- B. She is worried and tense as her family is in danger
- C. She is panicked and rushing
- D. She is annoyed to have been woken up

12. Why does the writer repeatedly mention throughout the extract that the air raids have happened before?

- A. The writer is reminding the reader that the air raids are normal and nothing to be worried about
- B. The writer wishes to show that preparing for air raids is Harry’s favourite activity
- C. The writer wishes show that the story is set during World War Two because this will interest the reader
- D. The writer is hinting that Harry is complacent in order to emphasise the shock of what comes later

13. What is the effect of beginning the novel with the immediate air raid?

- A. The reader is given a detailed understanding of the characters and setting
- B. The reader is able to understand the sudden and unpredictable danger of the air raids
- C. The reader feels sorry for the rabbits
- D. The reader feels like they are experiencing the air raid themselves

14. What effect does the writer create using the phrase ‘a rolling carpet of echoes’?

- A. The writer shows that the air raids are just like being at home
- B. The writer tells us that the explosions are going round in circles
- C. The writer shows that the sound is fluffy, like a carpet
- D. The writer hints that Harry is feeling a false sense of security

15. Why does the writer use so many short sentences in lines 26-30?

- A. The writer wants to create tension in this section
- B. The writer wants to suggest that everything is happening very slowly
- C. The writer wants to make this section clearer to read
- D. The writer wants to emphasise that Harry is confused

Vocabulary

Circle the answer, A, B, C or D, which gives the correct definition of each underlined word.

16. 'Hauled one jumper, then another, over his pyjamas' (line 4)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| A. Pulled with force | C. Applied |
| B. Threw | D. Inserted |

17. 'Bent to tie his laces thoroughly' (line 6)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Completely and carefully | C. Merrily and adequately |
| B. Angrily and violently | D. Poorly and cautiously |

18. 'Mam's precious attaché case' (line 20)

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| A. Full | C. Treasured |
| B. Missing | D. Beautiful |

19. 'With his neck prickling' (line 31)

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| A. Aching | C. Burning |
| B. Tingling | D. Glowing |

20. 'The blanket bouncing against his back comfortingly' (line 32)

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. In a way that made him feel warm | C. In a way that made him feel reassured |
| B. In a way that made him feel comfortable | D. In a way that made him feel sleepy |

TURN OVER FOR MORE QUESTIONS

Evidence selection

For these questions, you need to select appropriate evidence (quotations) from the extract for your answer. Write your chosen evidence onto the lines for each question.

21. Select two words or phrases from **lines 1-10** that suggest that Harry is moving quickly

1. _____

2. _____

22. Select two words or phrases from **lines 17-23** that suggest that the family is well-prepared

1. _____

2. _____

Writing skills

You should spend **30 minutes** on this section. Choose **ONE** of the following tasks to answer.

Whichever task you choose, you should try to include the following:

- Ambitious vocabulary
- Descriptive techniques, such as similes and metaphors
- Paragraphs
- A variety of sentence lengths
- Varied and accurate punctuation

Leave **five minutes** at the end to check your work.

Option A

Write a description inspired by the following photograph:



Option B

Write your own short story with the title 'The Kingdom by the Sea'.

Option C

Imagine that you are a soldier who is away from home fighting in a war. Write a letter to your friends or family back at home, describing your feelings and experiences.

