

## Colfe's 11+ Entrance Exam English – sample paper

### Section A: Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation (12 marks)

- Spend 10 minutes on this section of the paper.
- These questions are multiple choice – each is worth 1 mark. Highlight or circle the correct answer.

1. What type of words are underlined in the following sentence:

*Sea and sky merged and the sands of the beach, which on March nights glimmered like powdered light, had become a stew of mud and rotten shellfish.*

- a) verbs
- b) nouns
- c) adverbs
- d) adjectives

2. Which **punctuation mark** should go in the middle of this sentence?

*The dog liked to sleep in two rooms the bedroom and the sitting room.*

- a) semi-colon
- b) full-stop
- c) comma
- d) colon

3. In which of the sentences below are **commas** NOT used correctly?

- a) The penguins, following a period of much upheaval, were finally rehomed.
- b) It has been a difficult year for the local library, they have many unreturned books.
- c) I bought broccoli, carrots, courgettes and asparagus from the market.
- d) Having descended the hill, Susie finally caught sight of the old, crumbling lighthouse.

4. Only one of these sentences has all its **apostrophes** in the right place. Which is it?

- a) She's happy because she found her engagement ring in the girls changing room.
- b) With two energetic dogs, the childrens' shoes didn't last long.
- c) The policeman's car wouldn't start at the motorway services.

d) My boss's office looks like an art gallery, especially as its on it's own floor.

5. Read the following sentence. Which **punctuation mark** should go between the words *evening* and *it*? The exact place has been underlined for you.

***There was a huge queue for the circus that evening \_\_\_\_\_ it was rumoured that a famous acrobat would be performing.***

- a) comma
- b) full-stop
- c) bracket
- d) semi-colon

6. Read the following sentence and identify the **main clause**.

***Sweeping down the hills, and tearing across the grassy plains, the wind battered the cottage, seemingly desperate to get inside.***

- a) Sweeping down the hills
- b) and tearing across the grassy plains
- c) the wind battered the cottage
- d) seemingly desperate to get inside.

7. Read the following sentence. Identify the **part of the sentence** that is underlined.

***Once upon a time, there was a castle here which towered forty feet high.***

- a) main clause
- b) subordinate clause
- c) adverbial phrase
- d) prepositional phrase

8. Which sentence is in the **future tense**?

- a) The ice-rink by the river is always busy with children learning to ice-skate.
- b) The queue for the hot-chocolate stand snaked around the corner.
- c) At the end of the month, the old church will be demolished.
- d) Christmas songs are played in shops earlier and earlier each year.

9. Which **homophones** belong in the gaps in this sentence?

***I've heard \_\_\_\_\_ planning a picnic, though I am not sure \_\_\_\_\_ it will be.***

- a) there / were
- b) they're / where
- c) their / we're

d) there / where

10. Which word is an **antonym** of wise?

- a) foolish
- b) clever
- c) impatient
- d) intelligent

11. Which sentence uses the **passive voice**?

- a) My brother bought me a lovely birthday present.
- b) Peter and his friend shared the bag of cookies.
- c) The rabbit bolted for the nearby hole.
- d) Being taught to drive was a good experience.

12. Which **prefix** means 'against'?

- a) sub
- b) anti
- c) post
- d) inter

## Reading Passage for Section B

Below is a passage written in the voice of a young male narrator called Pi. He and his family are emigrating from India to Canada on a big container ship that is also carrying zoo animals. During the journey, the ship is caught in a storm and starts to sink.

- **Read this passage carefully and answer all the Section B questions.**
- **Words in bold are defined at the end of the passage.**

It was when I looked up at a lifeboat on the **bridge castle** that I started to worry. The lifeboat wasn't hanging straight down. It was leaning in from its **davits**. I turned and looked at my hands. My knuckles were white. The thing was, I wasn't holding on so tightly because of the weather, but because otherwise I would fall in towards the ship. The ship was **listing** to **port**, to the other side. It wasn't a severe list, but enough to surprise me. When I looked overboard the drop wasn't **sheer** any more. I could see the ship's great black side.

A shiver of cold went through me. I decided it was a storm after all. Time to return to safety. I let go, hotfooted it to the wall, moved over and pulled open the door.

Inside the ship, there were noises. Deep structural groans. I stumbled and fell. No harm done. I got up. With the help of the handrails I went down the stairwell four steps at a time. I had gone down just one level when I saw water. Lots of water. It was blocking my way. It was surging from below like a **riotous** crowd, raging, frothing and boiling. Stairs vanished into watery darkness. I couldn't believe my eyes. What was this water doing here? Where had it come from? I stood nailed to the spot, frightened and **incredulous** and **ignorant** of what I should do next. Down there was where my family was.

I ran up the stairs. I got to the main deck. The weather wasn't entertaining any more. I was very afraid. Now it was plain and obvious: the ship was listing badly. And it wasn't level the other way either. There was a noticeable incline going from **bow** to **stern**. I looked overboard. The water didn't look to be eighty feet away. The ship was sinking. My mind could hardly **conceive** it. It was as unbelievable as the moon catching fire.

Where were the officers and the crew? What were they doing? Towards the bow I saw some men running in the gloom. I thought I saw some animals too, but I dismissed the sight as illusion crafted by rain and shadow. We had the hatch covers over their bay pulled open when the weather was good, but at all times the animals were kept confined to their cages. These were dangerous wild animals we were transporting, not farm livestock. Above me, on the bridge, I thought I heard some men shouting.

The ship shook and there was that sound, the monstrous metallic burp. What was it? Was it the collective scream of humans and animals protesting their oncoming death? Was it the

ship itself giving up the ghost? I fell over. I got to my feet. I looked overboard again. The sea was rising. The waves were getting closer. We were sinking fast.

I clearly heard monkeys shrieking. Something was shaking the deck. A gaur—an Indian wild ox—exploded out of the rain and thundered by me, terrified, out of control, **berserk**. I looked at it, dumbstruck and amazed. Who in God's name had let it out?

### Glossary

**bridge castle** – front deck of the ship where it is steered and controlled

**davits** – small cranes to hold and lower lifeboats

**listing** – leaning to one side

**port** – left-hand side of a ship

**sheer** – straight down

**riotous** – out of control

**incredulous** – not believing something

**ignorant** – unsure or unclear

**bow and stern** – the front and the back of a ship

**conceive** - understand

**berserk** – wild and out of control

### **Section B: Reading (28 marks)**

- **Spend 30 minutes on this section of the paper.**
- **Questions 1-5 are multiple choice – each is worth 2 marks. Highlight or circle the correct answer.**
- **For questions 6-10, each question tells you how many marks are available. Answer in the space provided.**

1. Look at the first paragraph. Why were the narrator's knuckles white?

- a) He was afraid.
- b) The weather was very bad.
- c) He was holding on tightly.
- d) He wanted to look over the ship's side.

2. In the third paragraph, the narrator hears 'Deep structural groans'. Which technique has been used here?

- a) Sibilance
- b) Alliteration
- c) Simile
- d) Personification

3. Why does the narrator run up the stairs at the start of the fourth paragraph? You may need to look back at the third paragraph.

- a) He was very frightened of the dark.
- b) Water was blocking the stairwell.
- c) He was feeling seasick.
- d) He didn't know where his family was.

4. In the sixth paragraph, the narrator questions whether the 'ship itself [is] giving up the ghost'. What does this expression suggest?

- a) The ship is coming back to life.
- b) The ship is haunted.
- c) The ship is surrendering.
- d) The ship needs to rest.

5. In the last paragraph, the narrator 'clearly heard the monkeys shrieking'. Which technique has been used here?

- a) Onomatopoeia
- b) Simile
- c) Metaphor
- d) Assonance

6. Re-read the second paragraph. **How does the narrator feel here and what do they do?** Make two points and use your own words. (2 marks)

Feeling:

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Action:

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7a) **What technique is used** by the writer in this quotation from the third paragraph: “It was surging from below like a riotous crowd, raging, frothing and boiling”? (1 mark)

Technique:

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7b) **What is the effect?** (2 marks)

Effect:

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8. Re-read the second half of the fourth paragraph, from 'There was a noticeable incline...'. **How does the narrator feel here?** Write your idea, then identify the best quotation to prove this and the technique being used. (3 marks)

Idea:

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Quotation:

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Technique:

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9. Re-read the fifth paragraph. **What technique does the writer use to build tension in this paragraph?** Identify a technique, find one supporting quotation, and then explain the effect on the reader. (5 marks)

Technique:

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Quotation:

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Effect on the reader:

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10. Re-read the sixth paragraph. **How does the writer feel about being on a sinking ship here?** Write the feeling, identify one supporting quotation, and then explain the effect of language/structure in your quotation. You may mention a technique if that helps you to explain. (5 marks)

Feeling:

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Quotation:

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Effect of language/structure:

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### **Section C: Creative Writing (30 marks)**

- **You have 25 minutes to write your story.**
- **Please read all the instructions carefully before starting to write.**
- **Write on the lined paper provided.**

Write a story inspired by this image:



**You may want to use this opening sentence:**

Although it did not seem it at first, the tiger was not alone in the lifeboat.

**Make sure you include description in your story.**

Marks will be awarded for:

- Establishing a storyline
- Original ideas
- Vivid description
- Vocabulary
- Paragraphing, sentence variety, punctuation and spelling