

13+ English
Practice Examination Paper 1



Time Allowed: 1 hour

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Your answers to this examination should be **written on lined paper**.

Make sure that **your name** and **your teacher's initials** are on ***all*** the pieces of paper you use.

This examination consists of:

- **Section A:** A reading passage with comprehension questions;
- **Section B:** A transactional writing section.

You must complete **both** Section A and Section B

Passage B: Kongamato

1 Although dinosaurs are known to have been extinct for thousands of years, a strange tale from Zambia, in Africa, might suggest otherwise. Over the centuries there have been numerous reports of ferocious flying reptiles that bear an uncanny resemblance to a supposedly extinct species of dinosaur called the pterosaur.

5 These claims have inspired such curiosity that, in 1932, the traveller Frank Welland ventured into the Jiundu swamps of the Mwinilunga district of western Zambia to investigate the story. The local villagers gave him detailed accounts of monstrous, reddish birds with a wingspan of 1-2 metres, and long beaks full of teeth and leathery skin in place of feathers. They called these creatures 'Kongamato', which translates as 'overwhelmer of boats', owing to the fact that the huge birds would often overturn small vessels, attacking and sometimes killing the occupants. The local people were so terrified of the Kongamato that it was thought that just looking at one would result in certain death. When Welland showed them drawings of the prehistoric pterosaur, they unanimously and unhesitatingly agreed that these sketches identified precisely the creature they knew as the Kongamato.

15 Sightings of this dragon-like creature continued. A European living in Africa recounted how he had met a Zambian who had suffered an almost fatal wound to the chest while exploring the much-feared swampland. The man claimed he had received his injury in an attack by a huge, long-beaked bird.

19 Another account came from a zoologist, Ivan Sanderson, who, in 1933, was leading an expedition to the Assumbo mountains in the Cameroons. He described how, while hunting one day he shot a fruit bat over the fast-flowing river. Wading into the water to retrieve the fallen animal, he lost his balance. Having regained his footing, he heard a warning yell from a colleague and to his horror saw a gigantic black creature bearing down on him from the sky at great speed.

25 He ducked into the river to escape the huge bird and made for the riverbank. The creature renewed its attack, diving down on him again, and both he and his companion threw themselves on the ground, conscious only of the sound of the beating of the creature's powerful wings. Fortunately, it flew off: into the night, leaving the two men to return to their camp. Here they related their story to the local people, asking them if they knew what their attacker might have been. The locals fled in terror without answering the question.

31 Sanderson reflected on what he had seen and described the creature as about the size of an eagle, with a semicircle of sharp white teeth in its lower jaws. He also remarked that the beast, like the pterosaur, resembled a bat.

34 In another book, Captain C. Pitman described the existence of a bird that produced tracks, suggesting that it had a large tail that dragged along the ground behind. He went on to describe how the bird was alleged to feed on rotting flesh if corpses were not buried to a sufficient depth.

38 Today, sightings continue in remote areas of Africa and the existence of the Kongamato is

common knowledge among the inhabitants . When asked to draw what they have seen, they repeatedly draw a creature that looks remarkably like a pterosaur.

Section A: Comprehension Questions

(Total: 20 marks)

1. In lines 5-14, choose **three** words or phrases that tell us about the Kongomato's **appearance or actions**. *You can write this as bullet point answers.*

(3 marks)

2. Reread lines 15-30. Explain how the author creates **fear** of the Kongomato. *Support your answer with brief quotations.*

(5 marks)

3. Using quotations from anywhere in the text, explore how the writer creates a sense of **believability in the reports**.

You may want to consider:

- Key vocabulary used by the author
- Paragraph and sentence length or punctuation used by the author

(12 marks)

Section B: Transactional Writing

(Total: 30 marks)

Marks will be awarded for thoughtful, descriptive pieces, which have accurate and varied paragraphs and sentence structures, as well as accurate spelling and punctuation.

Imagine you have been to an amazing local attraction (real or imagined). Write a speech encouraging pupils in your school to make a visit to that place. E.g. a local museum, zoo, wildlife reserve, theme park ...

You may want to consider:

- Why they might enjoy that trip (and why you did).
- Ideas for activities that could be done there
- What the benefits and drawbacks of going on to this place would be.