



ST ALBANS
SCHOOL

13+ Entrance Examination

English

(60 minutes)

Surname	First Name

Date of Birth

Score Total

THIS PAPER HAS ONE SECTION. THERE ARE THIRTY (30) MARKS AVAILABLE IN TOTAL

EVERY PIECE OF PAPER YOU USE MUST BE CLEARLY HEADED WITH THE TITLE OF THE PAPER AND YOUR FULL NAME

The extract below is taken from a novel. A young girl called Rosemary has just bought a cat from a strange old woman. To her surprise, she has discovered that the cat, Carbonel, has magical powers and the ability to talk. In this extract, Carbonel is telling her that he may not be able to stay with her for very long.

Read the passage and answer the questions which follow.

“Can’t stay?” said Rosemary in dismay. “But why? You’re mine! I bought you with my own money!”

“For which, believe me, I shall be always grateful. But you are only fulfilling the prophecy.”

5 “What prophecy? Oh, do explain!” said Rosie, bouncing with impatience so that the bed creaked. “I don’t know what you are talking about!”

10 “I said you had a lot to learn,” said Carbonel coolly. “Sit still and I will try to explain. In the first place you thought you had bought a common witch’s cat. Mind you, I’m not blaming you. A very natural mistake. You were not to know that I am a Royal Cat.”

“Gracious!” said Rosemary in a voice that squeaked with excitement. “But how did you...?”

15 “Don’t interrupt,” said Carbonel, “I’m telling you. I was stolen from my cradle when I was a mere kitten. There was a prophecy among my people that something like that would happen one day. SHE stole me. Always ambitious, she was, and nothing would satisfy her but a Royal Cat to run her errands and sit on her broom. Oh, she was a proud one in those days. Handsome they say she was once, too, though you wouldn’t think so now.”

20 “How horrid of her to steal a kitten!” breathed Rosemary indignantly.

“Yes,” said the cat, gazing out of the window with his great amber eyes, not as if he was looking at the roofs and chimneys, but as

25 though he was seeing something quite different. "I was so young that
my eyes were still blue, and my tail no longer than your little finger.
But I knew the Royal Rules. I learnt 'em as soon as my eyes were open.
I can just remember my mother, a beautiful smoke grey Persian she
was, saying to me: "My son," she used to say, "my little son, never
forget you are a Prince. Behave like one, even if you do not feel like
one or look like one." I never forgot her words, so I never lost my self-
30 respect. Many's the time when I've been too hungry to sleep I've
repeated the Rules over and over to myself, till at last I dropped off."

"Poor little kitten!" said Rosemary softly.

35 "But it had its moments," he went on. "I took to the broomstick
business like a duck to water. Oh, those were the days, when you
raced together through the tumbling sky, with the Milky Way cracking
below, and the wind in your fur strong enough to tear the whiskers off
you! Or leaping and plunging through the midnight sky with a host of
others, and the earth twirling beneath you no bigger than a bobbin!"

He was standing now with his back arched and bristling, making
strange cat noises in his throat. It was growing dusk, and his eyes
glowed hotly. Rosemary waited, a little awed, till the noises in his
throat subsided, and then she put out a timid hand and stroked the
bristling fur.

Now answer in detail the following questions, writing in full sentences. For questions 1-4 inclusive, you should use quotations as evidence for your views.

1. Reread lines 1-6. Explain how Rosemary reacts to Carbonel's news and explain what the writer shows about her personality.
(5 marks)
2. Reread lines 13-18. What does the writing show about Carbonel's feelings towards the woman who stole him?
(5 marks)
3. Re-read lines 20-29. How does the writer present Carbonel's personality in this extract?
(5 marks)
4. Reread lines 31-36. How does the writer make this such an exciting and vivid description?
(5 marks)
5. Write **one to two paragraphs** continuing the story. You should try and maintain the style, setting and mood of the original. Please minimise dialogue.
(10 marks)