



Entrance Examinations (13+)

2018

English

45 Minutes

You should answer BOTH questions.

Please write your name clearly at the top of each sheet that you write on.

1. Your local library is going to be closed down after council budget cuts. Write a letter to your MP (member of parliament) to persuade them to campaign to keep the library open.
2. Describe a particularly memorable holiday.



Entrance Examinations

2018

English Comprehension

20 Minutes

You should spend five minutes reading and annotating the poem and 15 minutes answering the three questions.

Please write your name on each sheet of paper that you use.

Total:	%
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A Birthday

My heart is like a singing bird
 Whose nest is in a water'd shoot;
My heart is like an apple-tree
 Whose boughs are bent with thickset fruit;
My heart is like a rainbow shell
 That paddles in a halcyon¹ sea;
My heart is gladder than all these
 Because my love is come to me.

Raise me a dais² of silk and down;
 Hang it with vair³ and purple dyes;
Carve it in doves and pomegranates⁴,
 And peacocks with a hundred eyes;
Work it in gold and silver grapes,
 In leaves and silver fleurs-de-lys⁵;
Because the birthday of my life
 Is come, my love is come to me.

1. List two similes used in the poem. (2 marks)
2. Choose one image from the second stanza and describe its effect. (3 marks)
3. In your own words, explain what you think the final two lines of the poem mean. (5 marks)

Total: 10 marks

¹ Halcyon = a time of ideal peace and happiness

² Dais = a low platform

³ Vair = red fur

⁴ Pomegranates = exotic fruit

⁵ Fleur-de-lys = floral Royal symbol

Entrance Examinations (13+)

2017

English

45 Minutes

All questions should be answered on the lined paper provided.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME CLEARLY AT THE TOP OF EACH SHEET YOU USE.

Spend 20 minutes on each answer and five minutes to check your work.

NAME: AGE:

PRESENT SCHOOL:

Total:	%
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Question One

Write a letter to your best friend, telling them about your favourite book and trying to persuade them to read it. Use about 250 words.

(25 marks)

Question Two

Write an article for the school newspaper, arguing that mobile phones should be banned in schools. You should use about 250 words.

(25 marks)

[End of Examination]



13+ Entrance 2016

English

45 Minutes

Both questions should be answered in the spaces provided on the question paper.

Spend equal time on both of your answers.

NAME: AGE:

PRESENT SCHOOL:

Total:		%
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