

Name:

Candidate Number:

CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
GROUP THREE PRE-TEST
SPECIMEN PAPER

This examination is arranged in THREE sections, A, B and C. The marks allowed for each section are:

Section A: 34 Marks
Section B: 32 Marks
Section C: 34 Marks

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THE SPACES
PROVIDED.

Section A

Read carefully the following poem and then answer the questions which follow. The poem is about a Welsh farmer called Cynddylan. (The numbers in brackets are line numbers.)

CYNDDYLAN ON A TRACTOR

Ah, you should see Cynddylan on a tractor.
Gone the old look that yoked him to the soil;
He's a new man now, part of the machine,
His nerves of metal and his blood oil.
The clutch curses, but the gears obey (5)
His least bidding, and lo, he's away
Out of the farmyard, scattering hens.
Riding to work now as a great man should,
He is the knight at arms breaking the fields'
Mirror of silence, emptying the wood (10)
Of foxes and squirrels and bright jays.
The sun comes over the tall trees
Kindling all the hedges, but not for him
Who runs his engine on a different fuel.
And all the birds are singing, bills wide in vain, (15)
As Cynddylan passes proudly up the lane.

1. What evidence is there in the poem that this is Cynddylan's first tractor? [2 Marks]

2. What does the expression "yoked to the soil" (line 2) mean? [3 Marks]

3. What comparisons tell us that Cynddylan is "part of the machine" (line 3)? [4 Marks]

4. What does this expression (“part of the machine”) mean? [2 Marks]

5. What is meant by “the clutch curses”(line 5)? [2 Marks]

6. Why does Cynddylan’s exit from the farmyard have the effect it does on the hens? [2 Marks]

7. “He is the knight at arms” (line 9). What is the **tractor** being compared to in this expression? [2 Marks]

8. What does the word “kindling” (line 13) suggest about the early morning sun? [3 Marks]

9. How does Cynddylan feel about his new tractor? [2 Marks]

10. Look back to line 2. What do you think is meant by “the old look”? [4 Marks]

11. Imagine you are one of Cynddylan’s neighbours and you have just seen him driving out of the farmyard to start work in the fields. Write a description of what you see. (Make sure you make use of what you learn from the poem.) Write about 100 words. [8 Marks]

[Total Marks for Section A: 34 Marks]

NOW GO ON TO SECTION B.

Section B

1. In the passage below, there are 12 spelling mistakes. In the numbered spaces provided, write the correct spellings of the words which you think are incorrectly spelt.

Onse again it was a noise that had awakend me. Spider the dog was scraching and whinning at the door and I realized that it was some hours since the poor creture had been let out. I got up and dresed briskley, went downstairs and opened the front door. The sky was swollen and streaked with rain clouds, everythink looked drab and without colour and the estury was running high. But the wind had died down, the air was liter and very cold.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
- 11 _____
- 12 _____

[Total marks for Qu.1: 12 Marks.]

Section B (Continued)

2. *In the next passage, the Narrator and Spider have survived a dangerous experience. They are being looked after by Mr Daily. There are 10 numbered places where punctuation marks have been either misused, deliberately omitted, or are not needed at all. In the numbered spaces provided towards the bottom of the page, write next to the numbers the code letter from the list below the passage which you think corresponds to the required punctuation mark or correction. If no punctuation mark is needed, write K.*

"Im (1) extremely glad to see you (2) Mr Daily (3)"

"You've good reason. (4)

"I have, (5)"

"People have drowned on that marsh before now."

"Yes. Yes, I know that now." I started up. "Spider ..."

"She's here(6) She'll do."

At the sound of her name, Spider bumped her tail on the rug between us.

Mr Daily said; (7) "You'd better get your things, and we'll be off."

"Off (8)"

"Aye." (9)

I did not answer for a few moment's (10).

- A: full-stop needed;
- B: comma needed;
- C: question mark needed;
- D: exclamation mark;
- E: apostrophe needed;
- F: colon;
- G: semi-colon;
- H: apostrophe wrongly used;
- J: quotation marks needed;
- K: no punctuation or no change needed.

Write the code letter next to the numbers below.

- | | | | |
|----|-----|----|----|
| 1: | 2: | 3: | 4: |
| 5: | 6: | 7: | 8: |
| 9: | 10: | | |

[Total marks for Qu.2: 20 Marks.]

NOW GO ON TO SECTION C

Section C

In the passage below, the Narrator has just attended the funeral of Mrs Drablow. Read the passage, and then answer the questions which follow.

At the church gate, we stood for a few moments, talking politely, shaking hands, and I had a chance to look around me, and to notice that, on such a clear, bright day, it was possible to see far beyond the church and the graveyard, to where the open marshes and the water of the estuary gleamed silver, and shone even brighter, at the line of the horizon, where the sky above was almost white and faintly shimmering. (5)

Then, glancing back on the other side of the church, something else caught my eye. Lined up along the iron railings that surrounded the small asphalt yard of the school were twenty or so children, one to a gap. They presented a row of pale, solemn faces with great, round eyes, that had watched who knew how much of the mournful proceedings, and their little hands held the railings tight, and they were all of them quite silent, quite motionless. It was an oddly grave and touching sight, they looked so unlike children generally do, animated and carefree. (10)

I saw that Mr Jerome waited for me politely in the lane, and I went quickly out after him.

"Tell me, that other woman..." I said as I reached his side, "I hope she can find her own way home ... she looked so dreadfully unwell. Who was she?" (15)

He frowned.

"The young woman with the wasted face," I urged, "at the back of the church and then in the graveyard a few yards away from us." (20)

Mr Jerome stopped dead. He was staring at me.

"A young woman?"

"Yes, yes, with the skin stretched over her bones, I could scarcely bear to look at her ... she was tall, she wore a bonnet type of hat ... I suppose to try and conceal as much as she could of her face, poor thing." (25)

There followed a silence so deep that I heard the pulsation of the blood in the channels of my own ears. Mr Jerome looked frozen, pale, his throat moving as if he were unable to utter. (25)

"Is there anything the matter?" I asked him quickly. "You look unwell."

At last he managed to shake his head — I almost would say, that he shook himself, as though making an extreme effort to pull himself together after suffering a momentous shock, though the colour did not return to his face and the corners of his lips seemed tinged with blue. (30)

At last he said in a low voice, "I did not see a young woman."

"But, surely ..." And I looked over my shoulder, back to the churchyard, and there she was again, I caught a glimpse of her black dress and the outline of her bonnet. So she had not left after all, only concealed herself behind one of the bushes or headstones, or else in the shadows of the church, waiting until we should have left, so that she could do what she was doing now, stand at the very edge of the grave in which the body of Mrs Drablow had just been laid to rest, looking down. (35)

"Look," I said, and pointed, "there she is again ... ought we not to ..." I stopped as Mr Jerome grabbed my wrist and held it in an agonizingly tight grip, and, looking at his face, was certain that he was about to collapse. I began looking wildly about me, in the deserted lane, wondering whatever I might do for help. (40)

1. In your own words, describe the view of the horizon from the churchyard. [2 Marks]

2. Describe the weather conditions on this day. [2 Marks]

3. What is meant by the children being “one to a gap” (line 8)? [2 Marks]

4. In your own words, what is unusual or odd about the children's behaviour? [2 Marks]

5. In your own words, what signs of shock does Mr Jerome exhibit? [4 Marks]

6. How do the attitudes of the Narrator and Mr Jerome towards the young woman differ? [4 Marks]

7. How does the author make the young woman mysterious? [4 Marks]

8. In your own words, explain:

a. "had watched who knew how much of the mournful proceedings" (lines 9-10). [2 Marks]

b. "a silence so deep that I heard the pulsation of the blood in the channels of my own ears." (lines 25-26). [2 Marks]

Please turn over...

9. Continue the story in no more than 100 words. (You do not have to reach a conclusion.) [10 Marks]

[Total marks for Section C: 34 Marks.]

NOW CHECK YOUR WORK