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THE PERSE

UPPER SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

Year 9 Entrance Exams

English

Specimen Paper 2

Time allowed: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Instructions to candidates (**please read this information before the examination starts**):

1. There are **two** questions on this paper.
2. Answer both of them.
3. For the first question, read the passage and answer the questions which follow it.
4. For the second question, write about **one** of the subjects.
5. The number beside the question shows you how many marks there are for each question.
6. You are **strongly** advised to spend time reading and thinking before beginning your answers.
7. Write in full sentences wherever possible.
8. Remember to leave enough time to answer both questions properly.

QUESTION ONE

David lay quite still in the darkness, listening to the men's low muttering. But this evening he was

aware of their voices only as a vague meaningless noise in the distance, and he paid no attention to what they were saying.

"You must get away tonight," the man had told him. "Stay awake so that you're ready just before the guard's changed. When you see me strike a match, the current will be cut off and you can climb over - you'll only have half a minute for it, no more."

In his mind's eye David saw once again the grey bare room he knew so well. He saw the man and was conscious, somewhere in the pit of his stomach, of the hard knot of hate he felt whenever he saw him. The man's eyes were small, repulsive, light in colour, their expression never changing; his face was gross and fat. David had known him all his life, but he never spoke to him more than was barely necessary to answer his questions; and though he had known his name for as long as he could remember, he never said anything but "the man" when he spoke about him or thought of him. Giving him a name would be like admitting that he knew him; it would place him on an equal footing with the others.

But that evening he had spoken to him. He had said, "And if I don't escape?"

The man had shrugged his shoulders. "That'll be none of my business. I have to leave here tomorrow, and whatever my successor may decide to do about you, I shan't be able to interfere. But you'll soon be a big lad, and there's need in a good many places for those strong enough to work."

David knew only too well that those other places would not be any better than the camp where he now was. "And if I get away without being caught, what then?" he had asked.

"Just by the big tree in the thicket that lies in the road out to the mines, you'll find a bottle of water and a compass. Follow the compass southwards till you get to Salonica, and then when no one's looking go on board a ship and hide. You'll have to stay hidden while the ship's at sea, and you'll need the water. Find a ship that's bound for Italy, and when you get there go north till you come to a country called Denmark - you'll be safe there."

- a. Where do you think the passage is set? [3]
- b. What do we learn about “the man” in the passage? [6]
- c. In your own words, explain what “the man” suggests David's plan of escape should be. [5]
- d. Explain the changes that are going to take place the next day. [2]
- e. What do you learn from the fact that David will find a bottle and a compass by the big tree? [4]
- f. Imagine you are David. Using your imagination, describe the “grey bare room” which you know so well. [10]

QUESTION TWO

Write on one of the following topics:

1. Trying to Make a Difference.
2. The Jungle.
3. Defeat.
4. A Tempting Invitation.
5. The Refugee.
6. Understanding the Past.

[30]

END OF TEST