

150/01

ENGLISH

FOUNDATION TIER

PAPER 1

A.M. TUESDAY, 6 June 2006

(2 Hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all** questions in Section A and **two** questions in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A – about 55 minutes

Section B

Q. B1 – about 25 minutes

Q. B2 – about 40 minutes

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A (Reading): 40 marks.

Section B (Writing): 40 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

SECTION A: 40 marks

*Read carefully the passage below. Then answer **all** the questions which follow it.*

In this story, Henry suggests to his wife Jenny that she needs some help around the house.

Henry said, "You'll have to get some help." He said it in a tone that meant there was to be no discussion, the matter was decided. But none the less Jenny said, "What?" She said it not because she had not heard, but, like a child, because she did not want to hear.

"You'll have to get some help. I'm tired of this mess."

5 Guiltily, Jenny followed his glance across the smeared table, the children's coats tumbled behind the sofa, and the clutter of toys and newspapers in the corner.

"I'd feel awkward having someone polishing my floors and things, Henry, I honestly would." He brushed that objection aside with a snort.

Jenny's main worry could not be stated. It was the thought of someone else seeing her household disasters: her failures with the children, her frantic trips to the shops because there was
10 no milk for the baby, no bread, nothing for dinner again.

Henry said, more kindly, "She could do the worst chores. Give you time for the rest."

And perhaps that was true. Perhaps if there were someone to wash and Hoover and do nappies and all that, perhaps then she would be able to keep the shiny things polished as Henry liked, make nicer food, and have ironed shirts ready and available. She said, "What do I do?"
15

He put the paper down and said in a slow and careful voice that meant: listen because I am not going to repeat this, "You write out a card saying that you want a domestic help, take it along to the corner shop and ask them to put it in the window."

Two days after Jenny's trip to the corner shop, the telephone rang. The caller said she was Mrs
20 Porch, and she would like to call that afternoon. She arrived precisely at the time she had suggested. Jenny opened the door and Mrs Porch said, "Mrs Taylor? I'm Mrs Porch – about the job."

Jenny, confused, found herself blushing and talking too much, and it was Mrs Porch who led the way into the sitting-room. She looked round for somewhere to put her coat, sat down after a moment and said, "They're nice, these houses, aren't they? Have you been here long, Mrs
25 Taylor?"

They talked. She was a pleasant woman and Jenny began to relax as they toured the house. In the kitchen, Mrs Porch hung the cloth up to dry, put away the basin. At the same time she rinsed out a couple of dirty milk bottles and emptied the sink basket. Jenny said, "Oh please ... You
30 mustn't bother." And Mrs Porch, popping the milk bottles outside the back door, said that she believed in doing things as you went along, and then you didn't have everything piling up on you, did you? Upstairs, Jenny saw her look at three-year-old Emma's unmade bed and the dirty windows, and she grew confused again, hastily picking things up, trying to put clothes in piles. "You can't expect them to clear up, can you, at their age?" said Mrs Porch. "Bless them." When
35 she left they had arranged that she should start on Monday. Jenny could hardly believe her luck.

Mrs Porch's first weeks were positively exciting. She transformed the house within three days. The bath and basins gleamed; mounds of dirty clothes disappeared and were found later in the airing-cupboard, washed and ironed.

It was such a nice relationship. There had never been any need to tell Mrs Porch what to do.
40 She thought of everything. She made sure there were no household shortages, answered the telephone, and posted the letters that Jenny had forgotten. When the milkman rang the doorbell during the baby's bath, as he often did, Mrs Porch called up the stairs, "Don't you bother coming down, dear. I'll settle up with him for you, shall I?"

"Oh, you are an angel, Mrs Porch. My purse is in the top drawer of the dresser."

45 The only snag was that for some reason it was working out much more expensive than Jenny had thought. There always seemed to be less money than there should be. Twice she took out her purse in shops and found she had less than she'd thought.

And then one day Jenny found there was a five pound note missing from her purse.

50 A week later, it happened again. This time, she felt a little thud of shock in her stomach. She'd been trying to be more careful about money. There had been no one in the house all day except herself and Mrs Porch. Seven days later another five pound note went missing. It was a Friday,

one of Mrs Porch's days.

She felt rather ill and shaky the next day. She tried to avoid Mrs Porch, but she seemed to be everywhere, talking loudly and cheerfully. Once or twice she looked at Jenny with an odd sharpness. "You feeling all right, dear? You don't look all that good – there's a tummy bug about."

Halfway through the morning the bell rang. Mrs Porch said, "It's the bread man – I'll just pay him, shall I? I can't seem to find your purse, though, Mrs Taylor – it's not in the usual place."

Jenny said in a strangled voice, "It's all right, Mrs Porch. I'll do it." She got up hastily, spilling the baby's milk as she did so.

"Don't you bother," said Mrs Porch. "Ah, there it is." She reached forward to take the purse from the table beside Jenny, adding, "Coming, Mr Binns."

"No!" said Jenny shrilly. "Please LEAVE IT, Mrs Porch. I'll pay him myself." The baby was crying now, and the bread man ringing the bell again. She left the room hastily.

When she came back, Mrs Porch was soothing the baby. Jenny, her heart thumping horribly, sat down again. Mrs Porch was looking at her intently. She said slowly, "Is there something wrong with the purse, Mrs Taylor? Something bothering you?"

"No," said Jenny wildly. "At least I don't want I couldn't bear There's some sort of mistake, I'm sure. It's just that I felt certain I had"

"I see," said Mrs Porch. She sounded, for a moment, subdued, sad almost, but when she spoke again it was with her old briskness. "If it was anyone else I'd be angry, Mrs Taylor, but I've got fond of you, I really have. I like working here. We get on, I thought. So I'm not going to say anything more about it and pretend it never happened, and that's all there is to it. Unless, of course," said Mrs Porch, "you'd rather I didn't come any more?"

After a moment Jenny said, "No honestly, I . . . I'm sorry, I expect there's been a mistake."

"Then we'll forget about it. Right?" Mrs Porch gathered up the dirty crockery from the table. As she was leaving the room she turned and said, "And I'd put the purse back in the dresser, if I were you, Mrs Taylor. It'll be a nuisance if I can't find it, next time the milkman's wanting his money, when you're not about, won't it?"

And Jenny thought about how life had been transformed for her: the house was always clean and dusted, she never ran out of food. Henry had been delighted by the changes, and the children loved Mrs Porch too; when she was around they played more and cried less. She said quietly, "Yes. Yes, all right, Mrs Porch."

(from 'Help' by Penelope Lively)

Look again at lines 1-18.

A1. What do you learn about Henry and the way he treats Jenny in these lines? [10]

You must use the text to support your answer.

Look again at lines 19-44.

A2. How does Jenny react to Mrs Porch in these lines? [10]

You should refer to what Jenny feels, what she does, what she says and what she thinks.

Look again at lines 45-63.

A3. What are Jenny's thoughts and feelings in these lines? How does the writer show these thoughts and feelings? [10]

Look again at lines 53-82.

A4. These lines describe the events of one day. Imagine you are Jenny. Write your diary entry for that day. [10]

Remember that this is a test of your understanding of the story.

SECTION B: 40 marks

Answer Question B1 and Question B2.

In this section you will be assessed for your writing skills, including the presentation of your work.

Take special care with handwriting, spelling and punctuation.

A guide to the amount you should write is given for each question.

B1. Describe the scene at a sporting **OR** musical event. [20]

You should write about a page in your answer book.

Remember that this is a test of your ability to write descriptively. You should not write a story.

B2. Choose **one** of the following titles for your writing. [20]

The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about two pages in your answer book.

Either, (a) On the Run.

Or, (b) Write about a time when you felt ashamed of yourself.

Or, (c) The Journey of a Lifetime.

Or, (d) Continue the following: 'Everyone said you should never go back but I could not resist ...'

Or, (e) An Unforgettable Moment.