

150/05

ENGLISH
HIGHER TIER
PAPER 1

A.M. MONDAY, 5 November 2007

(2 Hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all** questions in Section A and **both** 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 short story below. Then answer **all** the questions which follow it.

This story is about three generations of the Henderson family going to see a theatre production of "Peter Pan". ("Peter Pan" includes the characters Mr and Mrs Darling, Tinkerbell, Captain Hook, Tiger Lily and the Lost Boys, and a place called Never-Never Land.)

Two weeks before Christmas, Angela Bisson gave Mrs Henderson six tickets for the theatre. Mrs Henderson was Angela Bisson's cleaning lady.

"I wanted to avoid giving you money," Angela Bisson told her. "Anybody can give money. I wanted to give you a treat. Something you'll always remember."

5 Mrs Henderson said, "Thank you very much." She had never, when accepting money, felt degraded. Her husband, Charles Henderson, asked her how much Angela had tipped her for Christmas.

Mrs Henderson said not much. "In fact," she admitted, "nothing at all. Not in your actual pounds and pence. We've got tickets for the theatre instead."

"What a discerning woman," cried Charles Henderson. "It's *just* what we've always needed."

10 "Our Moira's kiddies will like it," protested Mrs Henderson. "It's a pantomime. They've never been to a pantomime."

Mrs Henderson's son, Alec, said *Peter Pan* wasn't a pantomime. At least not what his mother understood by the word. Of course, there was a fairytale element to the story, dealing as it did with Never-Never Land and lost boys, but there was more to it than that. "It's written on several levels," he informed her.

"I've been a lost boy all my life," muttered Charles Henderson, but nobody heard him.

"And I doubt," said Alec, "if our Moira's kiddies will make head or tail of it. It's full of nannies and coal fires burning in the nursery."

"Don't talk rot," fumed Charles Henderson. "They've seen coal fires on television."

20 "Shut up Charlie," said Alec. His father hated being called Charlie.

"Does it have a principal boy?" Mrs Henderson asked hopefully.

"Not in the sense you mean," said Alec. "Don't expect any singing or smutty jokes."

"God Almighty," said Charles Henderson.

25 When Alec had gone out, Mrs Henderson told her husband he needn't bother coming to the theatre. She wasn't putting up with him and Alec having a pantomime of their own during the course of the evening and spoiling it for everyone else.

"By heck," shouted Charles Henderson, striking his forehead with the back of his hand, "why didn't I think of that? Perish the thought that our Alec should be the one to be excluded. I'm only the blasted bread-winner."

30 However, he knew his wife was just mouthing words.

On the night of the outing to the theatre, a bit of a rumpus took place in the lift. It was occasioned by Moira's lad, Wayne, jabbing at the control buttons and giving his grandmother a turn.

Alec thumped Wayne across the ear and Charles Henderson flared up. "There was no cause to do that," he shouted, though indeed there had been. Wayne was a shocking kiddie for fiddling with things.

35 "Belt up, Charlie," ordered Alec.

Alec drove them to the theatre in his car and, when the curtain went up, Charles Henderson was feeling the first twinges of indigestion. It wasn't to be wondered at. All that swapping of seats because Moira had a tall bloke in front of her and the kiddies tramping back and forth to the toilet. He found the first act a bit of a mystery. He supposed they couldn't get a real dog to play the part. Some of the scenery could do with a lick of paint. He couldn't for the life of him make out who or what Tinkerbell was, beyond a sort of glow-worm bobbing up and down on the nursery wall. When they all flew out of the window, something must have gone wrong because one of the children never got off the ground. Wayne was yawning his head off.

45 During Acts Two and Three, Charles Henderson dozed. He was aware of loud noises and children screaming. He hoped Wayne wasn't having one of his tantrums. Then he heard a drum beat and a voice cried out, "To die will be an awfully big adventure." He woke up with a start. He had a pain in his arm.

"Are you enjoying it then, Charlie?" Alec asked.

"It's a bit loud for me," said Charles Henderson.

50 "But Wayne thinks it's lovely," said Moira. "He's really engrossed."

"I could tell," Charles Henderson said. "They must have heard him yawning in Birkenhead."

“He always yawns when he’s engrossed,” defended Moira. She herself was enjoying it very much, though she hadn’t understood at first what Mr Darling was doing dressed up as Captain Hook.

“I suppose it saves on wages,” said Charles Henderson.

55 Alec explained it was symbolic. The kindly Mr Darling and the brutal Captain Hook were two halves of the same man. “The point,” said Alec, “is obvious. Mr Darling longs to murder his children. Like fathers in real life. They’re always out to destroy their children.”

60 During Act Four Charles Henderson asked his wife for a peppermint. His indigestion was fearsome. Mrs Henderson told him to shush. Wayne was sitting bolt upright. Charles Henderson tried to concentrate. He heard some words but not others. The lost boys were going back to their mums. Somebody called Tiger Lily had come into it. The Indians were beating tom-toms. His heart was beating so loudly that it was a wonder Alec didn’t fly off the handle and order him to keep quiet. That Tinkerbell person was flashing about among the cloth trees. He had the curious delusion that if he stood up in his seat, he too might soar up into the gallery. It was a daft notion because when he tried to shift his legs they were as heavy as lead. Mrs Darling would be pleased to see the kiddies again. She must have gone through hell. He remembered the time Alec had come home late from Cubs – the length of those minutes, the depth of that fear. It didn’t matter what his feelings had been towards Alec for the last ten years. He had loved little Alec, now a lost boy, and that was enough.

70 Something dramatic was happening on stage. Peter Pan and Tinkerbell were having a disjointed conversation about cough mixture and poison. The tiny star that was Tinkerbell began to flicker. Charles Henderson could hear sobbing. He was astonished to see his grandson wiping at his eyes with the back of his sleeve. Fancy Wayne, a lad who last year had been caught dangling a hamster on a piece of string from the window of the flats, crying about a light going out. Peter Pan was advancing towards the audience, his arms flung wide. *Tinkerbell thinks she could get well again if children believed in fairies. If you believe, clap your hands and Tinkerbell will live.* At first the clapping was muted, almost apologetic. Tinkerbell was reduced to a dying spark. Charles Henderson’s hands were clasped to his chest. There was a pain inside as though someone had slung a hook through his heart. The clapping increased in volume. The feeble Tinkerbell began to glow. She grew so dazzling that Charles Henderson was blinded. She blazed above him in the skies of Never-Never Land.

80 “Help me,” he said, using his last breath.

“Shut up, Charlie,” shouted Mrs Henderson, and she clapped and clapped until the palms of her hands were stinging.

from *Clap Hands, Here Comes Charlie* by Beryl Bainbridge

A1. Look at lines 1-35.

What do you learn about the characters Mr and Mrs Henderson and their son Alec? [10]

A2. Look at lines 36-57.

How do the different members of the Henderson family react to seeing the first three acts of the pantomime? [10]

A3. Look at lines 58-68.

What are Charles Henderson’s thoughts and feelings in these lines? [10]

A4. Look at the ending of the story (lines 69-82).

What happens in this part of the story? What are your thoughts and feelings as you read these lines? [10]

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 a person who has been important in your life. [20]

You should write about a page in your answer book.

Remember that this is a test of your ability to write descriptively.

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) The Challenge.

Or, (b) Write about a time when you had to make a difficult choice.

Or, (c) Continue the following:

They had landed safely but none of them knew where they were . . .

Or, (d) The Longest Day of My Life.

Or, (e) Write a story which ends:

She could laugh now, but it certainly was not funny at the time.