



AQA Level 1/2 Certificate

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Paper 1
Foundation Tier

87051F

F

Specimen

In addition to this paper you will require:

- an AQA 8-page answer book;

Time allowed: 2 hours

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is 87051F.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Write your answers in the answer book provided.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.
- You must **not** use a dictionary in this examination.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your Reading in section A.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your Writing in section B.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about one hour on section A and about one hour on section B.

SECTION A: READING

Answer **all** questions in this section.
Spend about one hour on this section.

The following extract is from a non-fiction memoir in which the writer recalls taking the Eleven Plus. This exam was once taken by most children in the United Kingdom at the age of eleven. It was used to decide which secondary school the child went to. It is still taken in some areas today.

Read lines **1-5** then answer **Question 01**

When we got to school that morning, there was no lesson. We had to sit at shiny desks in rows specially set out in the gym. There was clean paper and a printed question sheet we were not allowed to turn over until we were told to. The clock with big hands on the wall of the gym, above the door, clicked and ticked in the silence before we began the
5 examination.

01 List **4** things which the writer remembers about that morning at school. (4 marks)

Now read lines **6 – 25** and then answer **Questions 02 and 03**

Ringing in my ears were the words Granny had said to me before I left for school: “Jimmy, my dear, in the past when I’ve needed you to, you’ve come up trumps. This morning you’re taking your Eleven Plus and that’s important. So listen, because I want you to come up trumps again.

10 “You’ve got brains in your head which you need to use today, and tomorrow as well, for the other exam which I understand from your Mother you will also have to sit, though she could have done me the courtesy of telling me before and not keeping me in the dark until it’s almost too late to be able to help you. Your mother is not always...sensible. So...kindly have your pen and pencil and everything ready and be ready and waiting at the exam room
15 door.

“Read what the exam paper tells you to do and do what it says. You don’t get marks for questions unanswered, so you be sure to finish them all but not waste time on any you can’t do. And another thing: trust your brain to find the answer for you; it’ll find it.”

20 “Like coming home in the dark with your eyes shut?”

That was a game Granny and I did from church one Christmas Eve.

“You know a lot about finding your way in the dark, Jimmy, far more than most. More than should be the case in one of your age. But we must build on our strengths, and that is one of yours, however unfortunate its cause, so *use* it.”

25 “I climbed the mountain with Uncle Max and got right to the top.”

Granny nodded, she knew I had.

- 02** Explain, using your own words, the different pieces of advice given to Jimmy by his Grandmother? (5 marks)
- 03** What do you learn about the feelings of Jimmy's grandmother towards his mother? Support the points you make with reference to the text. (5 marks)

Now read lines **26 – 47** and then answer **Questions 04 and 05**

"Maybe the Eleven Plus is like that," I said, "or maybe it's like climbing the sycamore outside the front door of our old house. You've got to work out the right branches to get to the top the best way possible?"

Granny liked this idea better.

30 "Yes, Jimmy," she said, "it's like that. Especially maths, I think. I was good at it, your grandfather was good at it, your mother's good at it and Michael's good at it. So I shall be very vexed if I find you are not good at it. However, you have not been blessed with clever teaching and you have had a troubled mind. But fortunately your maths teacher will not be in the examination room with you today to confuse you, because that is against the rules.

35 So you can forget everything that has ever been said about what you can and can't do and when each question comes you seek out the right branches of the sycamore and climb up to the top, where I have no doubt you will find the correct answer.

"Grandfather, who was himself an examiner, always used to say that too many teachers like to find out what their pupils *cannot* do, and then point it out, again and again, 40 which helps nobody's sense of confidence; examination boards, on the other hand, are only interested in what you *can* do, so there is hope for you today. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Granny, I think so."

So that's what I did on the maths day of Eleven Plus and it was the first time I enjoyed maths inside a school building. I finished the paper early, and that included 45 checking it through like Granny said.

I put my ruler and my pencil and pen and rubber in my pencil box before anyone else and I looked at the clock. *Tick tock* it went, and the examination was over.

*Pages 186-188, The Boy With No Shoes by William Horwood, 0-7553-1318-6
Non-fiction/Memoir*

- 04** What is the importance of the image of the sycamore tree in lines **26 to 42**? (4 marks)
- 05** Now think about the whole passage. What different things have you learnt about Jimmy? Use evidence from the text to support the points you make. (7 marks)

SECTION B: WRITING

Answer **one** question in this section.
Spend about one hour on this section.

Remember to:

- plan
- paragraph
- communicate clearly.

At the end:

- read
- check
- correct.

EITHER

- 06** Choose an important person in your life. Describe that person so that your reader has a clear picture of him or her. (25 marks)

OR

- 07** “It was the most important test of my life.” Write a story which will interest your reader which starts or ends with this sentence. (25 marks)

OR

- 08** “Exams are an old fashioned way of measuring a person’s ability”. Write the words of a speech for a podcast in which you argue for or against this idea. (25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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Questions 1-5 *William Horwood, The Boy With No Shoes* Headline Publishing (2005)

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