

HIGHGATE

11+ test for entry

ENGLISH – Practice Paper 1

Time allowed: 45 minutes

- **Questions 1-3 (comprehension and analysis):** 30 minutes, including the time you take to read the passage.
- **Question 4 (creative writing):** 15 minutes, including the time you take to check your answer to ensure accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Name	
Candidate number	
Current school	

Teacher use only	Qu. 1-3 (out of 15)	Qu. 4 (out of 10)	Qu. 4 SPAG (out of 5)

Read the passage below before answering questions 1-3 on the next page.

In this extract, Simon (who is on a desert island) wanders off from his friends to explore the jungle alone.

1. Simon turned away from them and went where the just noticeable path led him. Soon high jungle closed in. Tall trunks bore unexpected pale flowers all the way up to the dark canopy where life went on noisily. The air here was dark too, and the creepers dropped their ropes like the rigging of sinking ships. His feet left prints in the soft soil and the creepers shivered throughout their lengths when he bumped them.
2. He came at last to a place where more sunshine fell. Since they had not so far to go for light, the creepers had woven a great mat that hung at the side of an open space in the jungle; for here a patch of rock came close to the surface of the canopy and would not allow more than little plants and ferns to grow. The whole space was walled with dark perfumed bushes, and was a bowl of heat and light. A great tree, fallen across one corner, leaned against the trees that still stood.
3. Simon paused. He looked over his shoulder behind him and glanced swiftly round to confirm that he was utterly alone. For a moment his movements were almost secretive. Then he bent down and wormed his way into the centre of the mat. The creepers and the bushes were so close that he left his sweat on them and they pulled together behind him. When he was secure in the middle he was in a little cabin screened off from the open space by a few leaves.
4. He squatted down, parted the leaves and looked out into the clearing. Nothing moved but a pair of colourful butterflies that danced round each other in the hot air. Holding his breath he listened to the sounds of the island. Evening was advancing toward the island; the sounds of the bright fantastic birds, the bee-sounds, even the crying of the gulls that were returning to their roosts among the square rocks, were fainter. The deep sea breaking miles away on the reef made an undertone less noticeable than the whispering of his heart.
5. Simon dropped the screen of leaves back into place. The slope of the bars of honey-coloured sunlight decreased; the light slid up the bushes, passed over the green candle-like buds, moved up toward the canopy, and darkness thickened under the trees. With the fading of the light the riotous colours died and the heat and urgency cooled away. The candle-like buds stirred. Their green leaves drew back a little and the white tips of the flowers moved delicately to meet the open air.
6. Now the sunlight had lifted clear of the open space and withdrawn from the sky. Darkness poured out, submerging the ways between the trees till they were dim and strange as the bottom of the sea. The candle-like buds opened their wide white flowers glimmering under the light from the first stars. Their scent spilled out into the air and took possession of the island.

Spend 30 minutes on Questions 1-3 (comprehension and analysis), including the time you take to read the passage.

Re-read paragraph 1.

Question 1

- (a) Write down **one** word that means ‘the highest branches of trees in a forest forming a roof of leaves’.

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(1 mark)

- (b) Name two things that Simon sees when he enters the jungle.
(2 marks)

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(2 marks)

Re-read paragraph 4.

Question 2

- (a) Write out a quotation that gives you the impression that Simon is enchanted by the sights or sounds of the jungle.

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(1 mark)

- (b) Explain how the quotation gives you this impression. Consider the meaning of the words and their associations.

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(3 marks)

Re-read paragraphs 5 and 6.

Question 3

(a) What two impressions do you get in paragraphs 5 and 6 about the part of the jungle that Simon is in?

You could think about:

- The light and the way that it gets darker.
- The way that the flowers open and spread their scent.

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(2 marks)

(b) Choose one of these two impressions and explain how the writer creates this impression. Include two quotations in your answer to support your explanation. Remember to consider the meanings of words and their associations.

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(6 marks)

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