

HIGHGATE

11+ test for entry

ENGLISH – Practice Paper 2

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 passage, a garden party has just been held for invited guests only. Children are now emerging from the trees, where they have been spying on the guests.

1. The Mulberry Garden surrendered to darkness and quiet. The three fiddles, the flute and the singer had gone home; the waiters, stalking on tiptoes like shabby crows, had poked and pried in the trees and under the tables for valuables left behind, and then blew out the lanterns in the trees.
2. A great stillness lay over the garden; such a stillness that the imagination might have heard the motion of a spider or the scream of a fly.
3. Suddenly there came the sound of a bell – a small, frail ringing: once, twice, three times...
4. The trees began to rustle, at first softly and then with increasing violence. Again the bell rang. The hedges began to shake, vines snapped and leaves fell to the ground. For a moment it seemed that the garden was in the grip of ghosts, called up by the bell to partake of the warmth left by the living. Indeed, the garden was reputed to be haunted...
5. Then this invisible violence died as mysteriously as it had sprung up; and out of the low branches and down the sides and backs of the trees slid and dropped various creatures, like misshapen fruits.
6. Perhaps a dozen, in all, made up this eerie **windfall***. Silently they gestured to each other before scuttling along the paths to the dark and silent house that adjoined the gate.
7. One by one they slipped through a back door and began to descend a flight of stone steps. The rattle of feet and the noise of panting suggested that a small-sized hailstorm had got inside the house and panicked.
8. The creatures, the **windfall*** from the trees, turned out to be children, human children of supernaturally ragged and filthy appearance. Several of them exhibited cuts and scratches from thorns and broken branches, and it seemed that they'd bled not blood but dirt, that they were dirt all through, that their very bones were grubby. Only their eyes, the windows of their souls, were bright and gleeful.

* **windfall** = the fruit blown down from a tree or bush by the wind

Spent 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 'admitted defeat'.

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(1 mark)

- (b) Name two things that the waiters do in paragraph 1.

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(2 marks)

Re-read paragraph 4.

Question 2

- (a) Write out a quotation that gives you the impression that the garden has become frightening.

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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 to 8 which describes the children dropping out of the trees and entering the house.

Question 3

(a) What two impressions do you get about the children in paragraphs 5 to 8?

You could think about:

- The children's movements as they drop out of the trees and enter the house.
- The children's appearance when they enter the house.

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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)

Spend 15 minutes on Question 4 (creative writing), including the time you take to check your answer to ensure accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Question 4

Write a short description about a place which is busy and noisy, but becomes quiet and peaceful.

You should try to make it clear:

- where you are
- how the place changes
- how your feelings change

You might like to:

- use the senses
- use a simile or a metaphor
- use a range of sentence structures for effect

(10 marks for content, 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.)

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Turn over

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End of Paper