

# HIGHGATE

**11+ test for entry**

**ENGLISH – Practice paper 3**

**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.

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| Name             |  |
| Candidate number |  |
| Current school   |  |

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

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

***In this passage, a young boy who has moved to a Greek island with his family describes the family's villa (house) and a local taxi driver called Spiro.***

1. The villa was small and square, standing in its tiny garden with an air of pink-faced determination. Its shutters had been faded by the sun to a delicate creamy-green, cracked and bubbled in places. The garden, surrounded by tall pink hedges, had the flower-beds worked in complicated geometrical patterns, marked with smooth white stones. The white cobbled paths, scarcely as wide as a rake's head, wound laboriously round flowerbeds hardly larger than a big straw hat, flowerbeds in the shape of stars, half-moons, triangles, and circles, all overgrown with a shaggy tangle of flowers run wild.
2. Roses dropped petals that seemed as big and smooth as saucers, flame-red, moon-white, glossy, and unwrinkled; marigolds like broods of shaggy suns stood watching their parent's progress through the sky. In the low growth the pansies pushed their velvety, innocent faces through the leaves, and the violets drooped sorrowfully under their heart-shaped leaves. The brightly coloured bush that sprawled luxuriously over the tiny front balcony was hung, as though for a carnival, with its lantern-shaped pink flowers. In the darkness of the hedge a thousand ballerina-like blooms quivered expectantly.
3. The warm air was thick with the scent of a hundred dying flowers, and full of the gentle, soothing whisper and murmur of insects. As soon as we saw it, we wanted to live there – it was as though the villa had been standing there waiting for our arrival. We felt we had come home.
4. Having lumbered so unexpectedly into our lives, Spiro now took over complete control of our affairs. It was better, he explained, for him to do things, as everyone knew him, and he would make sure we were not swindled.
5. 'Don'ts you worrys yourselves about anythings, Mrs Durrells,' he had scowled; 'leaves everythings to me.'
6. So he would take us shopping, and after an hour's sweating and roaring he would get the price of an article reduced by perhaps two drachmas.
7. That he knew everyone on the island, and that they all knew him, we soon discovered was no idle boast. Wherever his car stopped, half a dozen voices would shout out his name, and hands would beckon him to sit at the little tables under the trees and drink coffee. Policemen, peasants, and priests waved and smiled as he passed; fishermen, grocers, and cafe-owners greeted him like a brother. 'Ah, Spiro!' they would say, and smile at him affectionately as though he was a naughty but lovable child. They respected his honesty, his aggressiveness, and above all they adored his scorn and fearlessness.

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 'with difficulty' or 'strenuously'.

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**(1 mark)**

(b) Name two different features of the villa.

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**(2 marks)**

**Re-read paragraph 2.**

Question 2

a. Give a quotation that gives the impression that the flowers are mysterious or unusual.

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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)**



**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

Imagine you have travelled to a strange new place on holiday. Write a short diary entry describing your destination and a person whom you encounter.

You should try to make it clear:

- What the place is like
- What the person is like
- How you feel about them

You might like to:

- Use the senses
- Use a simile or a metaphor

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

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