REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Entrance Examination

ENGLISH

Time: 60 minutes

Sample Paper

Name: .....

English Exam – Reading Section

You should spend 30 minutes on this section. Read the passage below carefully and then answer the questions in the answer booklet.

In this extract, the characters are in the middle of a dramatic situation.

It was not yet midnight, and already it was the worst raid of the war. The door-curtain of the Anderson was framed a ghastly orange-pink, and even a mile from the river they could smell the burning oil.

'They've got the docks this time,' announced Mrs Spalding with mournful satisfaction. Anti-aircraft guns barked on and on, like a pack of cheated hounds. There were more of them than there used to be, but they weren't making much difference. Chas watched fragments of cork dropping off the shelter wall. He counted them as they lay on the floor. Anything to keep his mind off things. His mother was knitting with great calmness; that was always a bad sign. Mrs Spalding had her ear perilously close to the door-curtain, ready to regale the latest piece of bad news as it was shouted from shelter to shelter.

'Ashington's been hit; there are fifty men trapped by a bomb down the Rising Sun colliery.'

'South Shields gas holder's been hit; it's burning.' Then, with a sudden squeak of real fear in her voice, she said, 'What's that?' They all listened; nothing but bombs and guns. Silly stupid woman, thought Chas. Haven't we got enough trouble without inventing more?

'What do you *think* you heard, Mrs Spalding?' asked Mrs McGill icily. She didn't hold with such hysterical goings-on.

'I thought perhaps I heard the church-bells ringing.'

'Perhaps someone's getting married,' giggled Chas. Then his heart froze. For, in a lull of the guns, they suddenly all heard the bells, sweet with overtones of Sunday morning and Christmas. But that was long ago. Now bells meant…

Invasion. In Chas's mind's eye they came: the hard-faced hordes in their coal-scuttle helmets; the crawling irresistible Panzers; the lines of Stukas like straight bars across the sky. All his childhood they had stormed through the cinema newsreels, jack-booting triumphantly through Vienna, Prague, Warsaw, Paris. Now they would jackboot through Garmouth. Followed by the Gestapo. Knocks on your door, people dragged away in the middle of the night, firing-squads.

'It must be some mistake,' said Mrs McGill, tight-lipped.

Nobody answered.

'It came from up Blyth way,' said Mrs Spalding. 'There's plenty of army up there to deal with them.' Again, nobody answered.

You couldn't make friends with the Gestapo, any more than you could with diphtheria or scarlet fever germs; they were not human. And he *wouldn't* sit here with the adults, shaking, waiting to be slaughtered like cattle. He swallowed and controlled his breath; he must seem calm.

Turn over for the rest of the text.

‘Mum, I want to go to the lav.’ ‘Not now.’ His mother opened and closed her mouth like a rat-trap. ‘But mum, I’ll wet myself. And it’s a lull, Mum. No bombers. The Germans aren’t here yet… I’d better go while I can… Mum, I’m bursting.’ ‘All right, go,’ screamed his mother. Chas climbed out of the shelter carefully, because his knees were shaking; he walked calmly down the garden path towards the lav. Then he was running down the back garden, past the greenhouse. There was a half-moon and he could see the rabbits in their hutches, peacefully eating the dandelion leaves he had gathered that morning, a million years ago.	40 45

‘The Machine Gunners’ – Robert Westall

Glossary

Anderson – a type of air raid shelter
Panzer – World War Two German military tank
Stuka – World War Two German fighter plane
Jackboot – a military boot
Gestapo – World War Two German secret police
Lav – toilet

Answer the following questions. Use full sentences when you are asked to do so.

1. Where are the characters in this extract? (1)

2. In your own words, describe Mrs Spalding based on what she says in lines 4 to 11. (3 marks)

3. What is the effect of the metaphor "Then his heart froze."? (line 21) (2 marks)

4. Find and write down TWO pieces of information that describe the atmosphere in the place where the characters are. (2 marks)

1.	
2.	

5. Why does Chas giggle when he says “Perhaps someone’s getting married” in line 21? (2 marks)

6. Why has the writer chosen the word “slaughtered” in line 36? (1 mark)

7. What impression is given of the boy’s mother in line 39? (1 mark)

8. Identify and write down two pieces of evidence from the text where the characters seem worried. (2 marks)

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9. When the boy leaves the shelter, how does the writer describe the outside world? (3 marks)

10. In the whole text, how does the writer build up tension? Choose three examples and explain the effect of the writer's words in each one. You will receive a mark for each example and a mark for the effect. (6 marks)

Example	Effect

11.Summarise what happens in the extract using your own words. (3 marks)

English 11+ Writing Section

You should spend 30 minutes on this section. Plan before you begin and leave time to check your accuracy at the end. Use a wide vocabulary, paragraph correctly and be descriptive.

Choose ONE of the tasks below and write your response on the pages that follow:

1. Copy this sentence:
   "Rain drenched everything in the town."
   Then, continue the story. You may leave the story on a cliff hanger if you wish. You should focus on using close description, metaphors and similes. Make sure that you show the emotions and personality of the speaker in the story.

OR

2. Write a short story about a character who has to make a difficult decision.
   You should focus on:
   - Building tension towards a dramatic moment
   - Describing a dramatic event and the emotions that the person feels
   - Using descriptive techniques to help the reader to picture the scene in detail
   - Using similes and metaphors that are appropriate to the story, setting and character.

(25 marks)

PLANNING PAGE

Write your answer on the following pages.