



CATERHAM SCHOOL

ENGLISH SAMPLE QUESTIONS

11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
(For Entry into Year 7)

1 Hour 15 Minutes

Caterham School 11+ Entrance Exam in English – Syllabus and Information

The 11+ Entrance Examination in English is 1 hour and 15 minutes long.

Section A is a comprehension, based on a passage from a novel which will have been written for children or young adults in the last 100 years. Students should spend about 45 minutes on this section. 25 marks are available.

Section B is a writing task. It may be a story, a description or a non-fiction response. Students should spend about 30 minutes on this section, with particular time planning and crafting their work to showcase their ideas and writing ability. They may plan on the question paper. 20 marks are available for content; 5 marks for accuracy (SPaG).

The intention of the examination is to check the competence of reading and writing skills such as the following:

Reading:

- Demonstrate good understanding of a range of texts, fiction and non-fiction;
- Identify parts of speech and their function;
- Identify techniques (rhetorical, descriptive and figurative – such as metaphor, onomatopoeia);
- Retrieve information and supporting quotation;
- Use inference to reach judgements about the passage;
- Make evaluative judgements about a whole passage and support comment with quotation (possibly using PEE) in an extended piece of writing;
- Explain a writer's choices when asked to examine a specific sentence or phrase;
- Define unusual words in context;
- Find supporting evidence for an assertion such as a character trait, an atmosphere or a time period;
- Summarise meaning or events in a passage in own words;
- Observe structural choices such as where punctuation has been used, short and long sentences and how a piece of writing develops.

Writing:

- Write with a clear structure – e.g., fiction texts with a clear opening, development and closure;
- Use a range of basic punctuation with accuracy;
- Control of sentences;
- Use paragraphs which are cohesive in content and which follow the meaning of the piece;
- Use a range of different sentence types (compound, simple and complex);
- Use appropriate connectives for the task (discursive, temporal, comparative);
- Use appropriate and effective vocabulary which is sometimes adventurous;
- Write in an extended, developed and detailed way;
- Use ideas which have merit and originality;
- Follow a task closely and including relevant content.

Section A: Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

The extract is from 'Little House in the Prairie' and tells of how a family moved from the 'Big Woods' in their covered wagon and travelled West (with the American frontier) to the Prairie.

By Laura Ingalls Wilder

1 In the thin dark morning Ma gently shook Mary and Laura till they got up. In firelight
2 and candlelight she washed and combed them and dressed them warmly. Over their long red
3 flannel underwear she put wool petticoats and wool dresses and long wool stockings. She put
4 their coats on them, and their rabbit-skin hoods and their red yarn mittens.

5 Everything from the little house was in the wagon, except the beds and tables and
6 chairs. They did not need to take these, because Pa could always make new ones.

7 There was thin snow on the ground. The air was still and cold and dark. The bare trees
8 stood up against the frosty stars. But in the east the sky was pale and through the grey woods
9 came lanterns with wagons and horses, bringing Grandpa and Grandma and aunts and uncles
10 and cousins.

11 Mary and Laura clung tight to their ragdolls and did not say anything. The cousins
12 stood around and looked at them. Grandma and all the aunts hugged and kissed them and
13 hugged and kissed them again, saying good-bye.

14 Pa hung his gun to the wagon bows inside the canvas top, where he could reach it
15 quickly from the seat. He hung his bullet-pouch and powder-horn beneath it. He laid the
16 fiddle-box carefully between pillows, where **jolting** would not hurt the fiddle. The uncles
17 helped him **hitch** the horses to the wagon.

18 All the cousins were told to kiss Mary and Laura, so they did. Pa picked up Mary and
19 then Laura, and set them on the bed in the back of the wagon. He helped Ma climb up to the
20 wagon seat, and Grandma reached up and gave her Baby Carrie. Pa swung up and sat beside
21 Ma, and Jack, the brindle bulldog, went under the wagon. .

22 So they all went away from the little log house. The shutters were over the windows,
23 so the little house could not see them go. It stayed there inside the log fence, behind the two
24 big oak trees that in the summertime had made green roofs for Mary and Laura to play under.
25 And that was the last of the little house.

26 Pa promised that when they came to the West, Laura should see a papoose.

27 'What is a papoose?' she asked him, and he said, 'A papoose is a little, brown, Indian
28 baby.'

29 They drove a long way through the snowy woods, till they came to the town of Pepin.
30 Mary and Laura had seen it once before, but it looked different now. The door of the store
31 and the doors of all the houses were shut, the stumps were covered with snow, and no little
32 children were playing outdoors. Big cords of wood stood among the stumps. Only two or
33 three men in boots and fur caps and bright plaid coats were to be seen.

34 Ma and Laura and Mary ate bread and molasses in the wagon, and the horses ate corn
35 from nose bags, while inside the store Pa traded his furs for things they would need on the
36 journey. They could not stay long in the town, because they must cross the lake that day.
37 The enormous lake stretched flat and smooth and white all the way to the edge of the grey
38 sky. Wagon tracks went away across it, so far that you could not see where they went; they
39 ended in nothing at all.

40 Pa drove the wagon out on to the ice, following those wagon tracks. The horses' hoofs
41 clip-clopped with a dull sound, the wagon wheels went crunching. The town grew smaller
42 and smaller behind, till even the tall store was only a dot. All around the wagon there was
43 nothing but empty and silent space. Laura didn't like it. But Pa was on the wagon seat and
44 Jack was under the wagon; she knew that nothing could hurt her while Pa and Jack were
45 there.

Section A: Comprehension

Questions

1. Select three words or phrases which tell us this story is set in the past.

3 marks

2. What does the phrase '**in the thin dark morning**' tell you about the time of day?

2 marks

3. Looking at lines 1 - 4, what do you think the temperature is like?

1 mark

4. How does the writer show that Mary and Laura are afraid?

1 mark

5. Select one example from the text which shows that the rest of the family are sad to say goodbye.

1 mark

6. Select two of the packed items which tell us that this may be a dangerous journey.

2 marks

7. How many members of the family leave on the wagon?

1 mark

8. Re-read the phrase: '**The shutters were over the windows, so the little house could not see them go**'. What technique has the writer used here and what feeling does it create as the family leave their old house?

2 marks

9. Explain in your own words why the town of Pepin seems unwelcoming.

3 marks

10. How are they able to cross the lake?

1 mark

11. Find an example of onomatopoeia in lines 40 – 45 and suggest why the writer may have used this technique here.

2 marks

13. Looking at the passage from line 22 onwards, how does the writer create a negative feeling about the move? Try to use quotations to support what you say.

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Total [25 marks]

Section B: Writing Task

Task: Imagine that you are moving or visiting a new place. Describe the journey to that place.

- Try to include as many details as you can about the setting and the experience.
- It can be written in the first or third person ('I' or 'he' or 'she').
- Beware of introducing too many characters or using too much dialogue.
- You will be awarded up to 20 marks for the content of your writing and up to 5 marks for the accuracy (SPaG).
- You may wish to plan your ideas below.

Total [25 marks]

1

