



ALDENHAM SCHOOL

11 + Entrance Paper SAMPLE PAPER

ENGLISH

Length of examination – One hour

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

This examination consists of two parts:

Answer **all** questions in Section A. When you have finished Section A, continue immediately to Section B

Answer **one** question in Section B

We suggest you spend 30 minutes on each section

Remember to write your full name on each piece of paper you use.

Check your work carefully for correct spelling and punctuation

Read the following extract from *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens with care. Pip - a small boy - is paying his first visit to Miss Havisham; he finds the surroundings and the meeting a very daunting and difficult prospect.

This was very uncomfortable, and I was half afraid. However, the only thing to be done being to knock at the door, I knocked, and was told from within to enter. I entered, therefore, and found myself in a pretty large room, well lighted with wax candles. No glimpse of daylight was to be seen in it. It was a dressing-room, as I supposed from the furniture, though much of it was of forms and uses then quite unknown to me. But prominent in it was a draped table with a gilded looking-glass, and that I made out at first sight to be a fine lady's dressing-table. Whether I should have made out this object so soon if there had been no fine lady sitting at it, I cannot say. In an arm-chair, with an elbow resting on the table and her head leaning on that hand, sat the strangest lady I have ever seen, or shall ever see.

10 She was dressed in rich materials,—satins, and lace, and silks,—all of white. Her shoes were white. And she had a long white veil dependent from her hair, and she had bridal flowers in her hair, but her hair was white. Some bright jewels sparkled on her neck and on her hands, and some other jewels lay sparkling on the table. Dresses, less splendid than the dress she wore, and half-packed trunks, were scattered about. She had not quite finished dressing, for she had but one shoe on,—the other was on the table near her hand,—her veil was but half arranged, her watch and chain were not put on, and some lace for her bosom lay with those trinkets, and with her handkerchief, and gloves, and some flowers, and a Prayer-Book all confusedly heaped about the looking-glass.

20 It was not in the first few moments that I saw all these things, though I saw more of them in the first moments than might be supposed. But I saw that everything within my view which ought to be white, had been white long ago, and had lost its lustre and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and like the flowers, and had no brightness left but the brightness of her sunken eyes. I saw that the dress had been put upon the rounded figure of a young woman, and that the figure upon which it now hung loose had shrunk to skin and bone. Once, I had been taken to see some ghastly waxwork at the Fair, representing I know not what impossible personage lying in state. Once, I had been taken to one of our old marsh churches to see a skeleton in the ashes of a rich dress that had been dug out of a vault under the church pavement. Now,

30 waxwork and skeleton seemed to have dark eyes that moved and looked at me. I should have cried out, if I could.

"Who is it?" said the lady at the table.

"Pip, ma'am."

"Pip?"

"Mr. Pumblechook's boy, ma'am. Come—to play."

"Come nearer; let me look at you. Come close."

It was when I stood before her, avoiding her eyes, that I took note of the surrounding objects in detail, and saw that her watch had stopped at twenty minutes to nine, and that a clock in the room had stopped at twenty minutes to nine.

- 40 "Look at me," said Miss Havisham. "You are not afraid of a woman who has never seen the sun since you were born?"

I regret to state that I was not afraid of telling the enormous lie comprehended in the answer "No."

"Do you know what I touch here?" she said, laying her hands, one upon the other, on her left side.

"Yes, ma'am." (It made me think of the young man.)

"What do I touch?"

"Your heart."

"Broken!"

- 50 She uttered the word with an eager look, and with strong emphasis, and with a weird smile that had a kind of boast in it. Afterwards she kept her hands there for a little while, and slowly took them away as if they were heavy.

Section A - Reading and Comprehension (20 marks)

- 1) How is Miss Havisham described in the second paragraph? (3 marks)

- 2) Using evidence from the passage describe the 'dressing room'. (4 marks)

- 3) During the dialogue at the end of the passage Pip tells a lie (line 42). **Explain in your own words** why you think he chooses to lie? (3 marks)

- 4) Re- read paragraph 1. Select words and phrases from the description which show the situation that Pip finds himself in and that show how Pip feels about his visit explain how the writer has created effects by using this language. (5 marks)

- 5) Re-read paragraphs 2 and 3. Select words and phrases from these descriptions of Miss Havisham and explain how the writer has created effects by using this language. (5 marks)

Section B – English Composition (20 marks)

Choose one of the following ideas to write about.

Spend 5 minutes writing a plan for your work.

Underline after the plan before you begin your composition.

Check that you have:

- Punctuated correctly
- Used different and interesting verbs, adverbs and adjectives
- Included a variety of sentence structures
- Varied the length of your sentences
- Organised your writing into paragraphs
- Checked spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Used descriptive techniques such as similes and metaphors

1) 'The Visit' - write a story using this as your title **(20 marks)**

OR

2) Imagine you are Pip. Write a diary entry which covers the events of this day **(20 marks)**