

NAME _____ CLASS _____ INDEX

ST FRANCIS SECONDARY SCHOOL

SLIEMA



HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATIONS SPECIMEN PAPER

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

FORM 1

TIME 1 hr 30 min.

FOR EXAMINER'S USE ONLY.

| TOPIC | C/WRITING | PLAN | COMPREHENSION | GRAMMAR | TOTAL |
|-----------|-----------|------|---------------|---------|-------|
| MARK | | | | | |
| MAX. MARK | 20 | 5 | 25 | 20 | 70 |

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

YOU ARE REMINDED TO USE CORRECT SPELLING, GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION AND TO PRESENT YOUR WORK NEATLY.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR SECTION A.

SECTION A – CREATIVE WRITING

Choose 1 of the following titles and write a maximum of 150 words about it. You are reminded to use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar and that neatness is a MUST. It is also necessary to show your plan or word web since it carries 5 marks out of the 25 marks allotted to Creative Writing.

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE PAPER AND SHOW CLEARLY WHICH TITLE YOU HAVE CHOSEN. THERE IS NO NEED TO SKIP A LINE.



1. Janice, a friend of yours, is recovering after an operation. Write a letter to her in which you try to cheer her up and give her news about school and her friends.

(Make up an address and do not forget to use the letter format in your work.)

2. Pick a special day that stands out in your memory for some reason. Describe what happened on that day and say why it is so important to you.

3. You were walking along a country road when you suddenly met three very strange creatures. Describe these creatures and say what they did.

4. You have just finished reading a book about an exciting adventure involving an old map and hidden treasure. Write the story.

PLAN YOUR WORK HERE.

/5



SECTION B – COMPREHENSION

READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE VERY CAREFULLY AND ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW IT 25 MARKS.

It was January 1916. **The coldest winter in living memory.**

The dark rooms of Bloor's Academy were almost as cold as the streets outside. Henry Yewbeam, hurrying down one of the icy passages, began to hum to himself. The humming cheered him up. It warmed his spirits as well as his feet.

5. On either side of the passage the eerie blue flames of gaslights flickered and hissed in their iron brackets. The smell was horrible. Henry wouldn't have been surprised to find something dead in one of the dark corners.

At home, in a sunny house by the sea, his sister, Daphne, was ill with diphtheria. To avoid infection Henry and his brother, James, had been sent to stay with their mother's brother, Sir

10. Gideon Bloor.

Sir Gideon wasn't the sort of person you would choose to spend your holidays with.

There was nothing remotely fatherly about him. He was the headmaster of an ancient school and he never let anyone forget it.

Bloor's Academy had been in Sir Gideon's family for hundreds of years. It was a school for

15. children gifted in music, art and drama. Bloor's also took children who were endowed in other, very strange, ways. Just thinking about them made Henry shudder.

He had reached his cousin Zeke's room. Zeke was Sir Gideon's only child and a more unpleasant cousin Henry couldn't imagine. Zeke was one of the endowed children, but Henry guessed that Zeke's gift was probably nasty.

20. Henry opened the door and peeped inside. A row of glass jars stood on the windowsill.

Inside the jars, strange things writhed gently in clear liquid.

'What do you think you are doing?'

Aunt Gudrun came marching down the passage, her long black skirt drowning her footfalls with a sinister hiss. She was a very tall woman with a great amount of yellow hair piled into a

25. bun on the back of her head.

'You shouldn't be lurking in passages, boy. Come down to the sitting room.' Lady Bloor beckoned with her little finger, and Henry had no choice but to follow her.

Taken from 'Charlie Bone and the Time Twister' by Jenny Nimmo.

VOCABULARY:

Diphtheria (line 10) – an infectious bacterial disease.

Endowed (line 16) – having special talents or abilities.

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

(You are reminded to answer in your own words as far as possible. Neatness in writing is a MUST!)

1. Give the passage a suitable title. (1 mark)

2. Answer True (T) or False (F) to the following statements by ticking the correct column (✓) and giving the line number/s to support your answer. (1/2 mark each = 4 marks)

| | STATEMENT | T | F | LINE NUMBER/S |
|----|--|---|---|---------------|
| a. | Henry was happy at Bloor's Academy. | | | |
| b. | He was sent to the Academy as a punishment. | | | |
| c. | Zeke was Henry's favourite cousin. | | | |
| d. | The story takes place in the 19 th century. | | | |
| e. | Henry felt cheerful. | | | |
| f. | Henry loved being with his Aunt Gudrun. | | | |
| g. | Sir Gideon was a friendly and fatherly person. | | | |
| h. | There was a dead body in the corner of the corridor. | | | |

3. Sir Gideon was Henry's _____. (1/2 mark)

4. Using your own words, explain why Henry Yewbeam was sent to Bloor's Academy.

(1½ marks)

5. Why did Henry hum to himself whilst walking down the passages? (1 mark)

6. In lines 12-13, we are told that, **‘Sir Gideon wasn’t the sort of person you would choose to spend your holidays with.’** In your own words, explain why this is so. (3 marks)

7. In what way is Henry’s house different to Bloor’s Academy? Give 2 phrases from the passage to support your answer. (3 marks)

8. Find: (½ mark each = 2 marks)

8a. 1 verb in the Present Continuous Tense: _____ line _____

8b. 1 verb in the Past Simple Tense: _____ line _____

8c. 1 Adjective: _____ line _____

8d. 1 Adverb of Frequency: _____ line _____

9. Should Henry have been peeping inside his cousin’s room? Give a reason for your answer. (2 marks)

10. Henry saw those glass jars in Zeke’s room and, **‘Inside the jars, strange things writhed gently in clear liquid.’**(line 21)

10a. Mention 1 thing which could have been inside those jars. (1 mark)

10b. The word 'writhed', suggests that what was inside the jars was _____. (1mark)

11. What was so special about Bloor's Academy? (1 mark)

12. Find words in the passage that mean the same as (they do not have to be in this order and do not forget the line numbers): (½ mark each = 2 marks)

12 a. gloomy and strange - _____

12 b. twisted - _____

12 c. evil - _____

12 d. burnt unsteadily - _____

13a. In line 1, we are told that it was, 'the coldest winter in living memory.' In your own words, explain what this means. (1mark)

13 b. Quote one simile found between lines 1-4 which supports your answer. (1 mark)

SECTION C- GRAMMAR

1. COPY OUT EACH SENTENCE AGAIN AND PUT AN ADVERB OF FREQUENCY IN THE CORRECT PLACE. PLEASE USE 4 DIFFERENT ADVERBS.
(½ mark each = 2 marks)

a. Kate goes to bed late at night.

b. I drink a glass of milk in the morning.

c. They are late for school.

d. Ben and his wife go to a restaurant for Sunday lunch.

**2. PUT THE VERBS IN BRACKETS INTO THE CORRECT TENSE:
PRESENT SIMPLE/ PRESENT CONTINUOUS/ PAST SIMPLE/ PAST
CONTINUOUS. (½ mark each = 9 marks)**

Dear Donna,

I _____ (1. WRITE) to you from the Golden Beach Hotel. I

_____ (2. BE) here with Sandy and Pat. The hotel _____

(3. BELONG) to Sandy's uncle. And she _____ (4. SPEND) every

summer here.

The place _____ (4. BE) very nice and I _____ (5. THINK) all the

people at the hotel _____ (6. HAVE) a lovely time. We

_____ (7. SWIM) and _____ (8. GO) windsurfing every

morning but today it _____ (9. RAIN)!

Last week, we _____ (10. VISIT) Sandy's cousins. They

_____ (11. LIVE) in a huge villa by the sea. They _____

(12. PLAY) tennis when we _____ (13. ARRIVE) there.

At the moment, Sandy and Pat _____ (14. HAVE) lunch.

They _____ (15. EAT) fish and it _____

(16. SMELL) good.

_____ (17. YOU/HAVE) a good time at home?

_____ (18. WRITE) soon and tell me your news.

Love,

Laura.



3. FILL IN EACH BLANK WITH A SUITABLE WORD OR PHRASE.

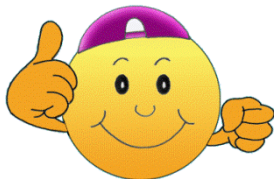
(½ mark each = 2 ½ marks)

1. Firefighters have to be _____.
2. Can you please _____ the furniture and _____ the rubbish?
3. He enjoys _____ out in the gym.
4. Why don't we _____ a barbecue on Sunday?

4. VOCABULARY. (½ mark each = 6 ½ marks)

1. When you are sad and upset because of a difficult situation, you are **d**_____.
2. Optimistic is the opposite of **p**_____.
3. I do not feel worried, scared or angry; I feel **c**_____.
4. Marco Polo was an Italian **e**_____.
5. Beethoven was a **G**_____ **c**_____.
6. Isaac Newton was an English **s**_____.
7. A very large, expensive house is a **m**_____.
8. A row of houses that are connected to one another are known as **t**_____ houses.
9. If you are unhappy because you are alone, you are **l**_____.
10. What **n**_____ was Marilyn Monroe?
11. Some of Beethoven's music was **h**_____ like his 'Ode to Joy'.

GO FOR IT !



GOOD LUCK !

12. When you lose your hearing completely, you become **d**_____.

-END OF PAPER-