

Section A	
Section B	
Total	

11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION



SOLIHULL

SAMPLE PAPER A

ENGLISH

CANDIDATE NUMBER: _____

11+ English Entrance Examination

Time Allowed: 1 Hour

Section A

Section A has **one task**. You should spend **forty minutes** on this section. This task is worth **thirty five marks**.

Read the passage then answer the questions that follow. The extract is taken from the from Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*.

In the passage, we are introduced to Mole, who has spent most of his life underground. One fine spring morning he meets the water rat and discovers the joys of the river bank. He longs to see what is beyond in the wild wood, in spite of Ratty's warning.

There was nothing to alarm him at first entry. Twigs crackled under his feet, logs tripped him, funguses on stumps resembled caricatures, and startled him for the moment by their likeness to something familiar and far away; but that was all fun, and exciting. It led him on, and he penetrated to where the light was less, and trees crouched nearer and nearer, and holes made ugly mouths at him on either side.

Everything was very still now. The dusk advanced on him steadily, rapidly, gathering in behind and before; and the light seemed to be draining away like flood-water.

Then the faces began.



It was over his shoulder, and indistinctly, that he first thought he saw a face; a little evil wedge-shaped face, looking out at him from a hole. When he turned and confronted it, the thing had vanished.

He quickened his pace, telling himself cheerfully not to begin imagining things, or there would be simply no end to it. He passed another hole, and another, and another; and then—yes!—no!—yes! certainly a little narrow face, with hard eyes, had flashed up for an instant from a hole, and was gone. He hesitated – braced himself up for an effort and strode on. Then suddenly, and as if it had been so all the time, every hole, far and near, and there were hundreds of them, seemed to possess its face, coming and going rapidly, all fixing on him glances of malice and hatred: all hard-eyed and evil and sharp.

If he could only get away from the holes in the banks, he thought, there would be no more faces. He swung off the path and plunged into the untrodden places of the wood.

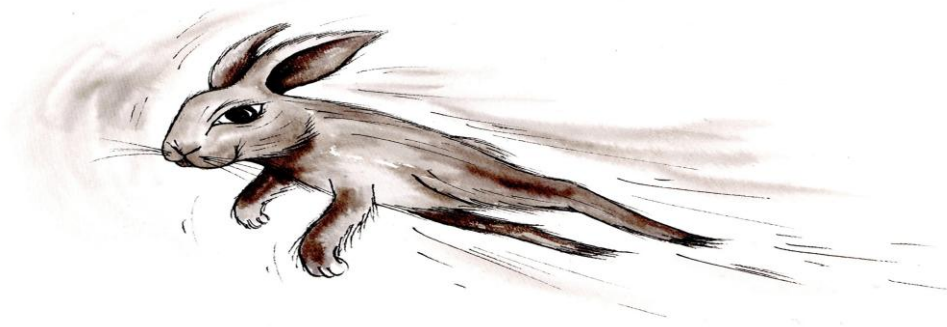
Then the whistling began.

Very faint and shrill it was, and far behind him, when first he heard it; but somehow it made him hurry forward. Then, still very faint and shrill, it sounded far ahead of him, and made him hesitate and want to go back. As he halted in indecision it broke out on either side, and seemed to be caught up and passed on throughout the whole length of the wood to its farthest limit. They were up and alert and ready, evidently, whoever they were! And he – he was alone, and unarmed, and far from any help; and the night was closing in.

Then the pattering began.



He thought it was only falling leaves at first, so slight and delicate was the sound of it. Then as it grew it took a regular rhythm, and he knew it for nothing else but the pat-pat-pat of little feet still a very long way off. Was it in front or behind? It seemed to be first one, and then the other, then both. It grew and it multiplied, till from every quarter as he listened anxiously, leaning this way and that, it seemed to be closing in on him. As he stood still to *harken*, a rabbit came running hard towards him through the trees. He waited, expecting it to slacken pace, or to swerve from him into a different course. Instead, the animal almost brushed him as it dashed past, his face set and hard, his eyes staring. 'Get out of this, you fool, get out!' the Mole heard him mutter as he swung round a stump and disappeared down a friendly burrow.



The pattering increased till it sounded like sudden hail on the dry leaf-carpet spread around him. The whole wood seemed to be running now, running hard, hunting, chasing, closing in round something or – somebody? In panic, he began to run too, aimlessly, he knew not whither. He ran up against things, he fell over things and into things, he darted under things and dodged round things. At last he took refuge in the deep dark hollow of an old beech tree, which offered shelter, concealment – perhaps even safety, but who could tell? Anyhow, he was too tired to run any further, and could only snuggle down into the dry leaves which had drifted into the hollow and hope he was safe for a time. And as he lay there panting and trembling, and listened to the whistlings and the patterings outside, he knew it at last, in all its fullness, that dread thing which other little dwellers in field and hedgerow had encountered here, and known as their darkest moment – that thing which the Rat had vainly tried to shield him from – the Terror of the Wild Wood!

Glossary:

Harken: to listen

1. In your own words, explain the meaning of the word ‘resembled’.

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..... (2)

2. What literary technique has been used in the phrase, ‘trees crouched’? Is it:

- a. A simile
- b. A metaphor
- c. Onomatopoeia
- d. Personification

..... (1)

3. In your own words, explain the meaning of 'dusk'.

.....
.....
..... (2)

4. What literary technique has been used in the phrase, 'the light seemed to be draining away like flood-water'? Is it:

- a. A simile
- b. A metaphor
- c. Onomatopoeia
- d. Personification

..... (1)

5. What does the word 'indistinctly' mean? Is it:

- a. Not clear or sharp
- b. Bright and vivid
- c. With beams of colour
- d. Loudly

..... (1)

6. What type of word is 'indistinctly'? Is it:

- a. Noun
- b. Adjective
- c. Verb
- d. Adverb
- e. Preposition

..... (1)

7. In your own words, explain the meaning of 'confronted' and identify what type of word it is.

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.....
.....
..... (3)

8. In your own words, explain the meaning of 'possess'.

.....
.....
..... (2)

9. What type of word is 'delicate'? Is it:

- a. Noun
- b. Adjective
- c. Verb
- d. Adverb
- e. Preposition

..... (1)

10. Write a synonym for the word, 'delicate'.

.....
..... (1)

11. What literary technique has been used in the phrase, 'the dry leaf-carpet'? Is it:

- a. A simile
- b. A metaphor
- c. Onomatopoeia
- d. Personification

..... (1)

12. Analyse HOW the writer has made the following two sentences so dramatic: 'In panic, he began to run too, aimlessly, he knew not whither. He ran up against things, he fell over things and into things, he darted under things and dodged round things.'

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..... (6)

13. In your own words, explain the meaning of the term 'refuge' as it is used in the following clause: 'At last he took refuge in the deep dark hollow of an old beech tree'.

.....

.....

..... (2)

14. What does the word 'concealment' mean? Is it:

- a. Warmth
- b. Bright and vivid
- c. Revelation
- d. Seclusion

..... (1)

Section B

Section B has **one task**. You should spend **twenty minutes** on this section. This task is worth **fifteen marks**.

Task:

Continue the story about Mole's adventure in the wood. Aim to write an additional two or three paragraphs. Begin with the sentence starter below.

‘However, just as he thought things couldn’t get worse...’

Your writing will be judged on:

- your imaginative ideas
- the accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar
- the quality of your description and use of direct speech
- paragraphing.

[illegible]

