

Section A	
Section B	
Total	

11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION



SOLIHULL

SAMPLE PAPER B

ENGLISH

CANDIDATE NUMBER: _____

11+ English Entrance Examination

Time Allowed: 1 Hour

Section A

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

Read the passage then answer the questions that follow. The extract is taken from Susan Cooper's novel *The Dark is Rising*.

Much later, when he went to bed, Will opened the bedroom curtain and pressed his nose against the cold windowpane and he saw the snow tumbling down even thicker than before. He could hear the wind, too, whining around the roof close above him. Will slept in a slant-roofed attic at the top of the house.

The snow flurried against the window, with a sound like fingers brushing the pane. Again Will heard a moaning in the roof, louder than before; it was rising into a real snow storm. He thought of the tramp that he had seen earlier and wondered where he had taken shelter.

He picked up his jacket and took the strange iron ornament, which the tramp had given him. He ran his fingers round the circle, up and down the inner cross that quartered it. The surface on the iron was irregular yet smooth. It was an odd kind of iron: deep, absolute black, with no shine to it but no spot anywhere of discolouration or rust. It was cold to the touch; so cold that Will startled to find it numbing his finger tips. Hastily, he put it down. The wind sang in the window frame.



It was then, without warning, that fear came.

The first wave caught him as he was crossing the room to his bed. It halted him in the middle of the room, the howl of the wind outside filling his ears. The snow lashed against the window. Will was suddenly deadly cold, yet tingling all over. He was so frightened that he could not move a finger. In a flash of memory from the afternoon, he saw again the lowering sky over the spinney, dark with rooks, the big black birds wheeling and circling overhead. Then that was gone, and he saw only the tramp's terrified face and heard his scream and ran. For a moment, then, there was only a dreadful darkness in his mind, a sense of looking into a great black pit. Then the high howl of the wind died, and he was released.



He stood shaking, looking wildly around the room. Nothing was wrong. Everything was just as usual. The trouble, he told himself, came from thinking. It would be all right if only he could stop thinking and go to sleep. He climbed into bed, and lay there looking up at the skylight in the slanting roof. It was covered grey with snow.

He switched off the small bedside lamp, and the night swallowed the room. Will tossed uneasily. He had never known a feeling like this before. It was growing worse every minute. As if some huge weight were pushing at his mind, threatening, trying to take him over, turn him into something he didn't want to be. That's it, he thought: make me into someone else. But that's stupid. Who would want to? And make me into what? Something creaked outside the half-open door, and he jumped. Another strange crackling noise came, this time above his head in the ceiling, and the wind whined suddenly loud, and Will sat bolt upright.



Fear jumped at him like a great animal that had been waiting to spring. Will lay terrified, shaking, feeling himself shake, and yet unable to move. Outside, the wind moaned, paused, rose into a sudden howl, and there was a noise, a muffled scraping thump, against the skylight in the ceiling of his room. And then in a dreadful furious moment, horror seized him like a nightmare made real; there came the wrenching crash, with the howling of the wind suddenly much louder and closer, and a great blast of cold; and the feeling came hurtling against him with such force of dread that it flung him cowering away.

Will shrieked. For an appalling pitch black moment he lay scarcely conscious, lost somewhere out of the world, out in black space. And then there were quick footsteps up on the stairs outside his room . . .

1. What technique has been used in the following sentence: '*The snow flurried against the window, with a sound like fingers brushing the pane*'?

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..... (1)

2. Who had Will seen earlier in the day?

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..... (1)

3. What had Will been given earlier in the day?

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..... (1)

4. What technique has been used in the following sentence: '*The wind sang in the window frame*'?

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..... (1)

5. In your own words, explain the meaning of '*lashed*' as it is used in the text.

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

6. What type of word is '*lashed*'? Is it a:

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

..... (1)

7. Will vividly describes a powerful and disturbing memory from the afternoon. What does he remember?

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..... (3)

8. What technique is used in the following two examples – ‘*dreadful darkness*’ and ‘*high howl*’?

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..... (1)

9. What makes the following sentence so effective: ‘*He switched off the small bedside lamp, and the night swallowed the room*’?

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..... (3)

10. Find two separate examples of when the writer uses the sense of sound to create tension.

Example 1:

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..... (2)

Example 2:

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..... (2)

11. In what way does Will seem confused?

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..... (5)

12. Explain what makes the following sentences so effective: *'Fear jumped at him like a great animal that had been waiting to spring. Will lay terrified, shaking, feeling himself shake, and yet unable to move. Outside, the wind moaned, paused, rose into a sudden howl, and there was a noise, a muffled scraping thump, against the skylight in the ceiling of his room.'*

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..... (7)

Please turn over for **Section B**

Section B

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

Task:

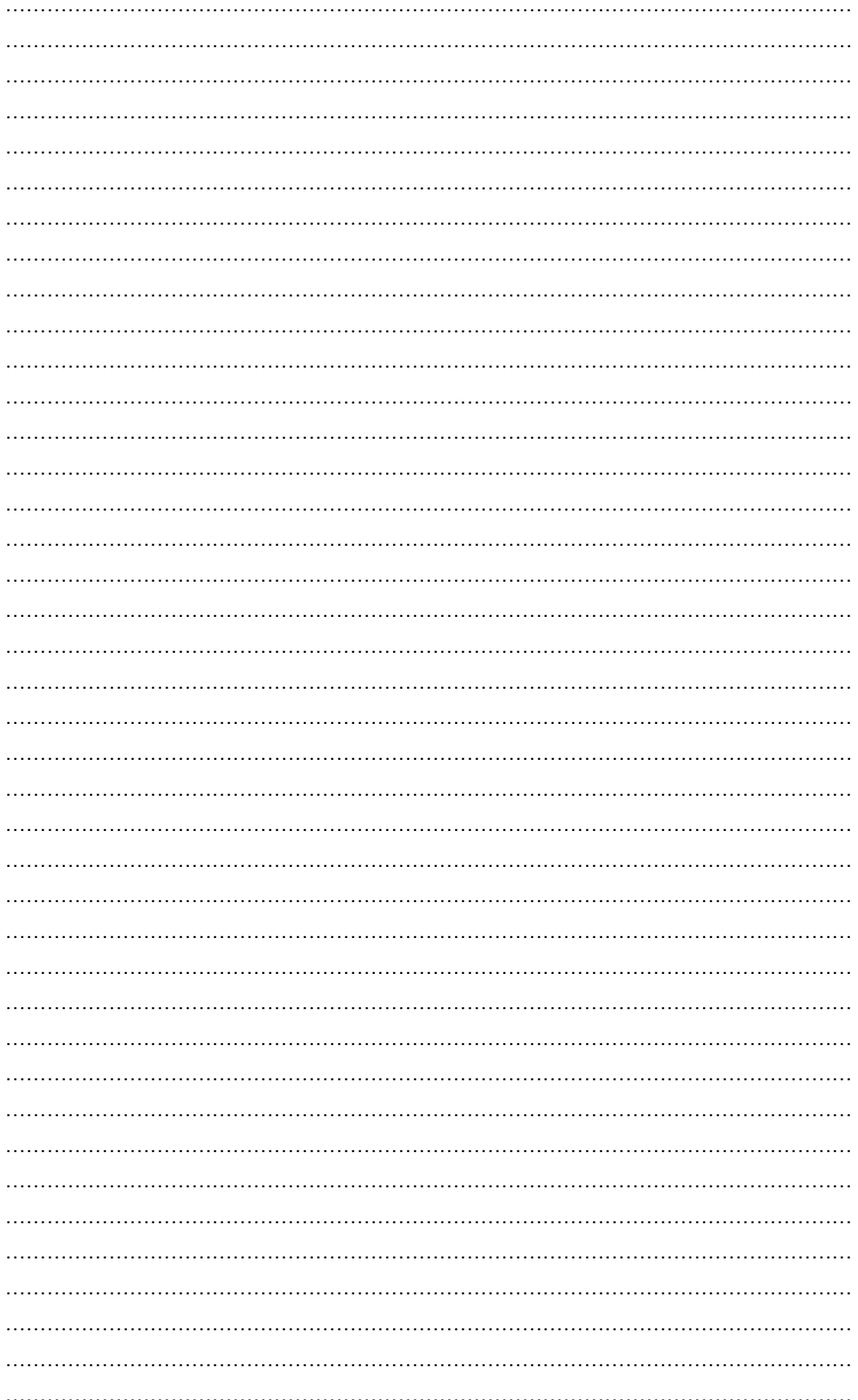
Continue the story about Will from the point when the passage finishes. Aim to write an additional three or four paragraphs. Begin with the sentence starter below,

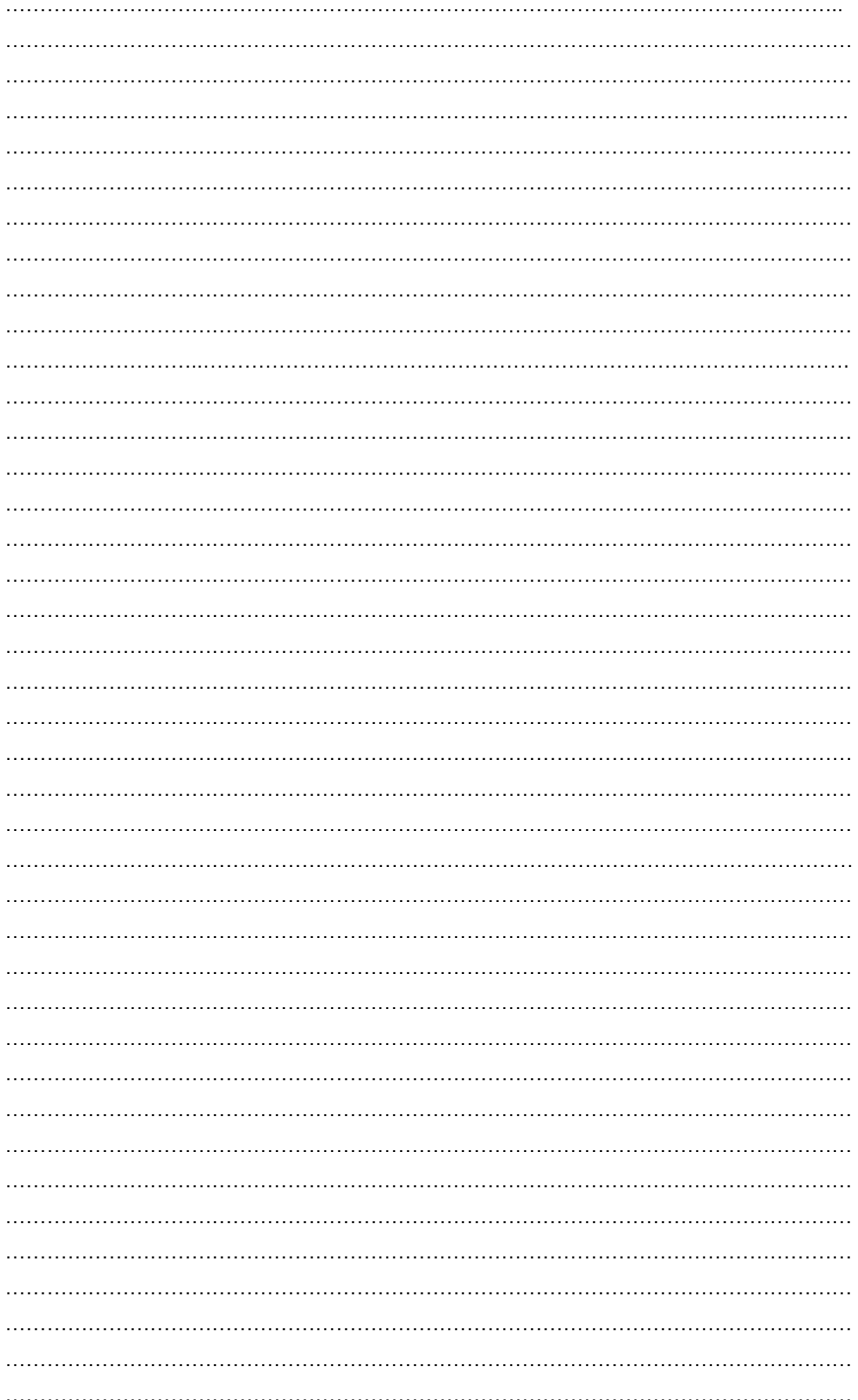
‘And then there were quick footsteps up on the stairs outside his room...’

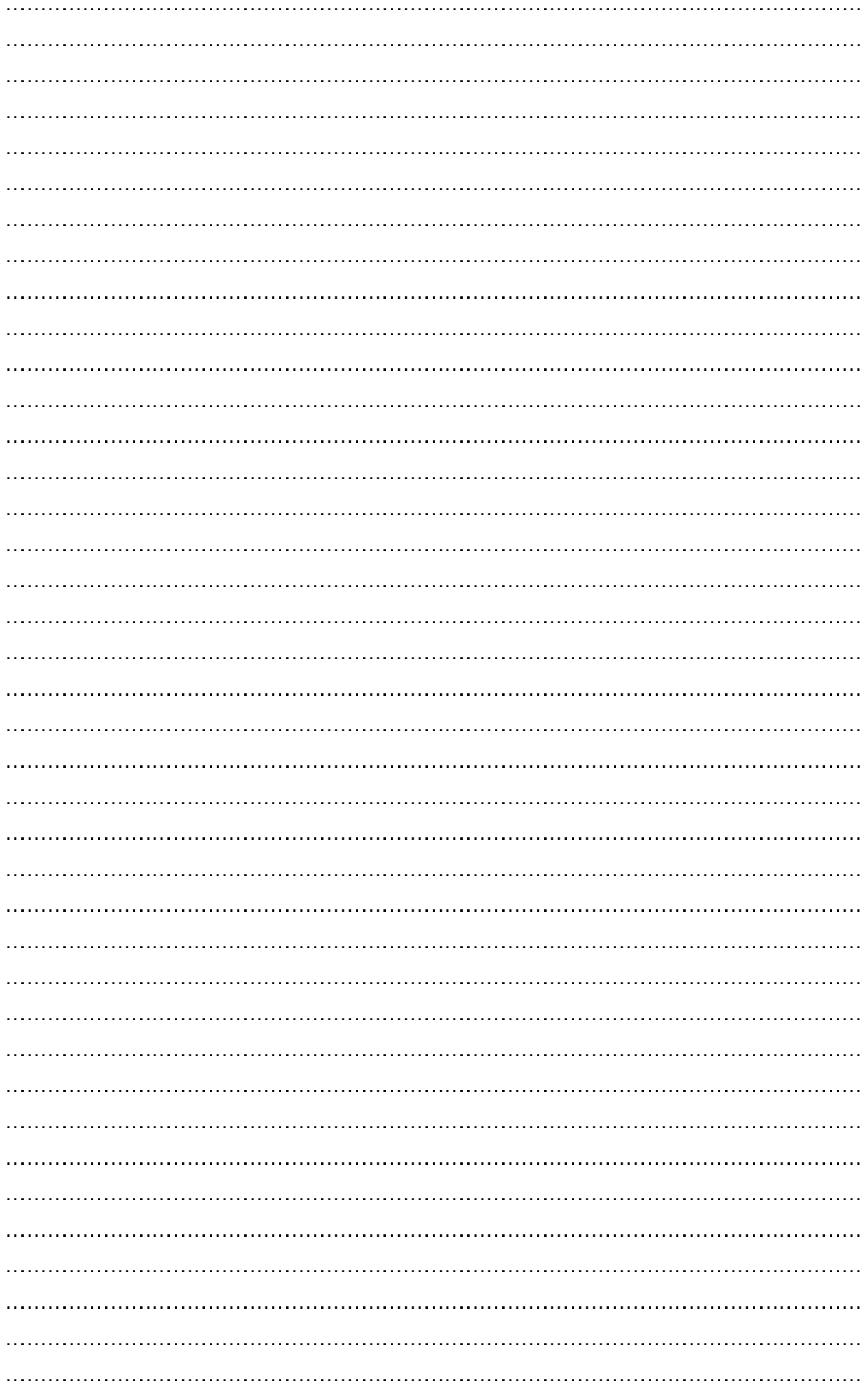
Your writing will be judged on:

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

[illegible]







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