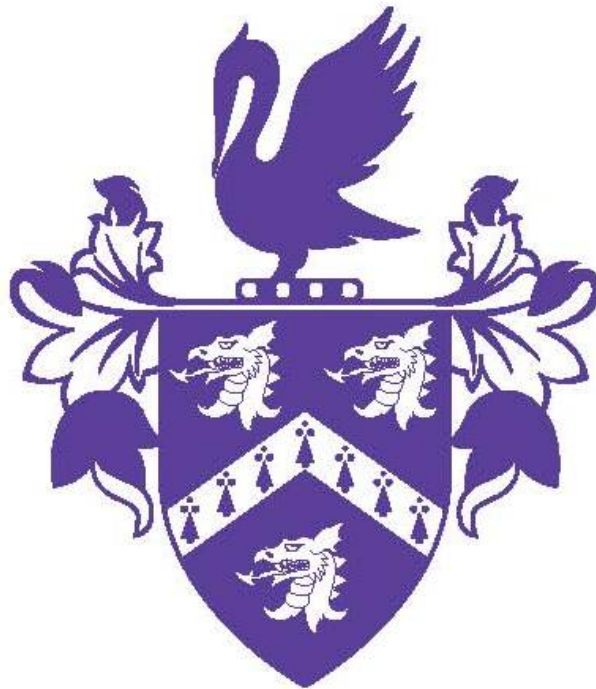


Name _____

13+ English
The Perse School Entrance Test



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Time allowed: 1 hour TEN MINUTES

Instructions to candidates

- 1) There are three sections to this paper.
- 2) For sections **one** and **two** read the passage and answer the questions which follow it.
- 3) For the **third** section, write about **one** of the subjects.
- 4) Remember to leave enough time to answer all three questions properly.
- 5) Please remember that you cannot ask any questions about the paper during the exam.

Section 1: Multiple Choice Questions (Ten Marks)

Each answer choice has a letter. You need to write the correct letter on the paper provided. For some questions, you will need to write more than one letter.

Section 2: Analytical Writing (Twenty Marks)

You need to answer each question on the paper provided. Write in full sentences and remember to use quotation marks when necessary.

Section 3: Creative Writing (Ten Marks)

Choose one subject and write imaginatively about it. You may write in any format you choose.

Marks - The number beside the question shows you how many marks there are for each question. The teacher will tell you when you should be starting each section.

In this extract, the writer, Eric Newby describes some of his experiences as he travels along part of the 'Hindu Kush', an 800 mile mountain range which stretches from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

'One of the great advantages of travelling in this part of the world is that, if you wait long enough, something happens, said Hugh, after we had been sitting for ten minutes without anything happening at all. 'You can't imagine doing this in England, squatting down, outside a village. You'd starve to death'.

'I can't see much point in doing it here.'

But I was soon to be confounded. Gradually, our arrival began to cause a disturbance. Women and children came to the doors of their houses, making bright splashes of colour in the sombre landscape. They uttered low wailing cries that were taken up and echoed by the men, up to now unseen, high up on the mountainside. Two men appeared; one short and stocky, the other taller, with brown eyes, a strong neat beard, a straight nose, a man with an air of dignity. Our guide, Abdul Ghiyas seemed to know him, for he embraced him warmly. His name was Abdul Rahim.

They had brought with them an earthenware pot containing boiled and watered milk, the thick, yellowish crust that forms on cream and some bread to mop it up. For us, it was no time to be stand-offish as our horse-drivers were tucking in with gusto, the food vanishing down their gullets.

We went on our way, Abdul Rahim accompanying us. The going was really hard now, very steep over landslides of flat slabs lying loose on the mountain, now almost red hot in the sun. Abdul Rahim led, picking his way easily, while far behind the other members of the expedition wallowed and hesitated. The air was full of the sounds of slithering as the horses struggled up. All of us had eaten and drunk unwisely and now we burped unhappily, like windy babies as we toiled upwards.

We were crossing the head of a deep defile. Above us, the mountains swept back in screes of the same slabs on which were making such heavy weather. Above these screes were great bulbous outcrops of what looked like limestone and behind them, seen through clefts, were pinnacles shining with ice and snow. Every now and then, one of the slabs underfoot would start to move, gain momentum and slither downhill like a toboggan, over the precipice and into the invisible river.

Finally, at half past nine, we rounded the last bend, climbed a steep wall of debris and saw at the end of a long straight valley, an enormous mountain.

'Mir Samir' said Hugh.

It was about six miles off, and seeing it from the west against the morning sun and at this distance, it was an indistinct brown pyramid, flecked with white, veiled in haze, the base in deep shadow.

It was an exciting moment, but it was not the mountain, but the prospect immediately before us, so enchanting was it, which held our attention.

We were in a great meadow of level green grass, springy underfoot and wonderfully restful to my battered feet. Winding through it was the river, no longer a torrent but peaceful between grassy banks, with a maze of backwaters forming narrow little headlands and islands, all coming together in a small lake at the foot of which we were now standing. A cool breeze was blowing, rippling the water. It was a place to linger, making the programme ahead seem even more unattractive than usual.

The valley was full of magnificent horses, the joint property of the people in the immediate region and some Pathan nomads. Now terrified, they went thundering away in single file, weaving through the maze of channels and up on to the mountain-side, manes streaming in the breeze. Beyond this lay another valley, with the same beautiful grass and the same labyrinth of watercourses. At the far end, by the foot of a moraine* that poured down into the meadow in a petrified cascade of stone, there was a large rock covered with orange lichen, which offered some slight shade from the heat of the sun. Here we unloaded our horses. In the chronicles of any well-conducted expedition, this would have been called the 'base camp'.

*Moraine: an accumulation of boulders, stones and other debris that has been deposited by a glacier.

Section One – Multiple Choice

- 1) The best **title** for the extract is:
 - a) 'The Distant Summit'.
 - b) 'The Amazing View'.
 - c) 'The Monster Mountain Range'.
 - d) 'Climbing for Victory'.
 - e) 'A Long Day's Walk'. (1)

- 2) The three adjectives which best **describe** the reactions of the people in the village are:
 - a) Angry, fearful, aggressive.
 - b) Happy, joyous, welcoming.
 - c) Uncertain, curious, hospitable.
 - d) Curious, confident, friendly.
 - e) Watchful, uncertain, cool. (1)

- 3) The metaphor which best **sums up** the first stage of the expedition is:
 - a) A walk in the park.
 - b) A leap into the unknown.
 - c) An uphill struggle.
 - d) As easy as pie.
 - e) Light at the end of the tunnel. (1)

- 4) In the fifth paragraph, (We went on our way, Abdul Rahim accompanying us...) the **strongest effect** created by the **contrast** between Abdul Rahim and the rest of the expedition is:
- a) The entire group is suffering, because of the heat and the terrain.
 - b) Abdul Rahim is sure footed, like a goat, whilst the rest of the group are clumsy and unsure, like pigs or hippos.
 - c) Abdul Rahim is confident, but the horses are finding it difficult to get up the slopes.
 - d) Abdul Rahim is familiar with the trails, the rest of the group are not.
 - e) Abdul Rahim ate sensibly, but the rest of the group are suffering from indigestion. (1)
- 5) The slabs of rock can ‘slither downhill like a toboggan’. This most **strongly suggests**:
- a) The group find rocks which are shaped like sledges.
 - b) The rocks are not solid, so it is not safe underfoot.
 - c) The group is quite high up the mountain.
 - d) The rocks can slide downhill at a rapid pace, as if on snow.
 - e) The rock enjoys its fast downhill journey. (1)
- 6) The mountain, Mir Samir, is described as ‘an indistinct pyramid, flecked with white, veiled in haze’. This creates a **vivid impression** of:
- a) A piece of the landscape which is out of place.
 - b) A distant mountain, covered in snow.
 - c) A colossal chunk of rock, in different colours.
 - d) A very tall mountain, with its head in the clouds.
 - e) An enigmatic, brooding presence. (1)
- 7) The writer **implies** that the meadow would make a good ‘Base Camp’ because: (list all which apply)
- a) The meadow is very beautiful.
 - b) The ground is relatively flat.
 - c) There are lots of animals.
 - d) The meadow is between the village and the mountain.
 - e) There is water and shade. (1)

- 8) In the final paragraph, the 'petrified cascade' creates the **image** of:
- a) A frightening pile of rocks.
 - b) A frozen waterfall of stone.
 - c) A landslide.
 - d) Boulders tumbling over a cliff.
 - e) A stream of pebbles.
- (1)
- 9) The writer's attitude to the expedition is best **described** as:
- a) Resigned, but determined.
 - b) Scared, but excited.
 - c) Tired, but persistent.
 - d) Frustrated, but hopeful.
 - e) Fed-up, but curious.
- (1)
- 10) Throughout the passage, the writer **demonstrates** that he: (list all that apply)
- a) Is an experienced traveller.
 - b) Has an understanding of other cultures.
 - c) Has an appreciation of the natural world.
 - d) Is willing to experience new things.
 - e) Is physically fit.
- (1)

Section Two

Answer both questions. Half of the marks will be awarded for the **content** of your answers; the other half will be awarded for the **quality** of your writing.

- 1) In your **own words**, summarise the **difficulties** Eric Newby and his guides experience on their climb to 'Mir Samir' (10)
- 2) In what ways does the writer make the passage so **interesting** to read? (10)

Section Three

Write on ONE of the following. Half of the marks will be awarded for the **content** of your writing; the other half will be awarded for the **quality** of your writing.

- 1) The Expedition. (10)
- 2) The Time Capsule. (10)
- 3) The Noticeboard. (10)
- 4) The Pen. (10)
- 5) The Discovery. (10)