

ALLEYN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

9+

ENGLISH SAMPLE PAPER 1 (COMPREHENSION)

Name:

Instructions for Candidates

Time: 35 minutes

It is suggested that you use about 20 minutes for Comprehension 1 and 15 minutes for Comprehension 2.

Answer in full sentences in the spaces provided taking particular care with your spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting. When you have finished, go back and check your answers. Take note of the marks available.

Write with a pen or pencil.

For use by marker

Comprehension 1: /15

Comprehension 2: /10

Total: /25

Comments (e.g. spelling, punctuation, grammar, handwriting)

Comprehension 1

Stay Where You Are And Then Leave

By John Boyne

Read the following passage which is taken from the opening pages of a book and then answer the questions that follow. Numbers on the left refer to the line numbers and are referred to in some questions.

Every night, before he went to sleep, Alfie Summerfield tried to remember how life had been before the war began. And with every passing day, it became harder and harder to keep the memories clear in his head.

5 The fighting had started on 28 July 1914. Others might
not have remembered that date so easily but Alfie would
never forget it, for that was his birthday. He had turned five
years old that day and his parents threw him a party to
celebrate, but only a handful of people showed up: Granny
10 Summerfield, who sat in the corner, weeping into her
handkerchief and saying, 'We're finished, we're all finished,'
over and over, until Alfie's mum said that if she couldn't get a
hold of herself she would have to leave; Old Bill Hemperton,
the Australian from next door, who was about a hundred
15 years old and played a trick with his false teeth, sliding them
in and out of his mouth using nothing but his tongue; Alfie's
best friend, Kalena Janacek, who lived three doors down at
number six, and her father, who ran the sweet shop on the
corner and had the shiniest shoes in London. Alfie invited
20 most of his friends from Damley Road, but that morning, one
by one, their mothers knocked on the Summerfields' front
door and said that little so-and-so wouldn't be able to come.
'It's not a day for a party, is it?' asked Mrs Smythe from
number nine, the mother of Henry Smythe, who sat in the
25 seat in front of Alfie in school and made at least ten
disgusting smells every day. 'It's best if you cancel it, dear.'

30 'I'm, not cancelling anything,' said Alfie's mother, Margie, throwing up her hands in frustration after the fifth parent had come to call. 'If anything, we should be doing our best to have a good time today. And what am I going to do with all this grub if no one shows up?'

35 Alfie followed her into the kitchen and looked at the table, where corned-beef sandwiches, stewed tripe, pickled eggs, cold tongue and jellied eels were all laid out in a neat row, covered over with tea towels to keep them fresh.

'I can eat it,' said Alfie, who liked to be helpful.

'Ha,' said Margie. 'I'm sure you can. You're a bottomless pit, Alfie Summerfield. I don't know where you put it all. Honest, I don't.'

40 When Alfie's dad, Georgie, came home from work at lunch time that day, he had a worried expression on his face. He didn't go out to the back yard to wash up like he usually did, even though he smelled a bit like milk and a bit like a horse. Instead, he stood in the front parlour reading a newspaper before folding it in half, hiding it under one of the
45 sofa cushions and coming into the kitchen.

Answer the following questions in full sentences on the lines provided.

1. How old was Alfie on 28 July 1914? (1 mark)

2. What other event started on that day? (1 mark)

3. What reason did a mother give for their children not being able to come to see Alfie that day? (1 mark)

4. Describe how Alfie's granny was behaving. (1 mark)

5. Give two reasons why Alfie's mother did not want to cancel the party? (2 marks)

6. How did Alfie's father behave differently from normal when he got home from work? (2 marks)

7. Why did he hide the newspaper do you think? (1 mark)

8. Use another word, or phrase, to mean the same thing as the following words as they are used in the passage:

(a) handful (line 9)

(b) disgusting (line 26)

(c) frustration (line 28)

(d) expression (line 41)

(4 marks)

9. What do you think is meant by the phrase 'you're a bottomless pit' in lines 37/8? (2 marks)

15 marks

Comprehension 2

Poetry

The Listeners

By Walter De La Mere

Read the poem below and then answer the following questions.

Line 1 ‘Is there anybody there?’ said the Traveller,
 Knocking on the moonlit door;
 And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
 Of the forest’s ferny floor:

Line 5 And a bird flew up out of the turret,
 Above the Traveller’s head:
 And he smote upon the door again a second time;
 ‘Is there anybody there?’ he said.
 But no one descended to the Traveller;

Line 10 No head from the leaf-fringed sill
 Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes,
 Where he stood perplexed and still.
 But only a host of phantom listeners
 That dwelt in the lone house then

Line 15 Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight
 To that voice from the world of men:
 Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,
 That goes down to the empty hall,

Hearkening in an air stirred and shaken
Line 20 By the lonely Traveller's call.
And he felt in his heart their strangeness,
Their stillness answering his cry,
While his horse moved, cropping the dark turf,
'Neath the starred and leafy sky;
Line 25 For he suddenly smote on the door, even
Louder, and lifted his head:—
'Tell them I came, and no one answered,
That I kept my word,' he said.
Never the least stir made the listeners,
Line 30 Though every word he spake
Fell echoing through the shadowiness of the still house
From the one man left awake:
Ay, they heard his foot upon the stirrup,
And the sound of iron on stone,
Line 35 And how the silence surged softly backward,
When the plunging hoofs were gone.

Answer the following questions in full sentences on the lines provided.

1. What time of day is the poem describing and what evidence is there for this? (2 marks)

2. What do you think the following words used in the poem might mean:

(a)dwelt (line 14)

(b)smote (line 25)

(2 marks)

3. How did the traveller feel?

(1 mark)

4. What did the traveller do when he had no response initially?

(2 marks)

5. What do you think 'cropping the dark turf' in line 23 means?

(1 mark)

6. What sort of atmosphere does the poet describe? Provide some examples of how he creates this atmosphere in his writing.

(2 marks)

10 marks