



BANCROFT'S SCHOOL
11+ EXAMINATION

English 11+ Sample Paper 2
Reading Booklet

'Geography Lesson' by Brian Patten

Our teacher told us one day he would leave
And sail across a warm blue sea
To places he had only known from maps,
And all his life had longed to be.

5 The house he lived in was narrow and grey
But in his mind's eye he could see
Sweet-scented jasmine clinging to the walls,
And green leaves burning on an orange tree.

10 He spoke of the lands he longed to visit,
Where it was never drab or cold.
I couldn't understand why he never left,
And shook off the school's stranglehold.

15 Then halfway through his final term
He took ill and never returned,
And he never got to that place on the map
Where the green leaves of the orange trees burned.

20 The maps were redrawn on the classroom wall;
His name was forgotten, it faded away.
But a lesson he never knew he taught
Is with me to this day.

I travel to where the green leaves burn
To where the ocean's glass-clear and blue,
To all those places my teacher taught me to love
But which he never knew.



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Section A

Time allowed 25 minutes

First name	
Last name	
Date of birth	
Name of my school	

Instructions:

There are different types of questions. The space given for your answer shows you how you need to answer each question:

- For some questions you must write only one word or phrase.
- Other questions need longer answers in one or more sentences.
- A few questions ask you to write at greater length.
- The number of marks available for each question will also show you how many points you need to make.

Try to answer all the questions.

Write neatly.

If you finish within the allocated time, go back and check your answers.

These questions are about the poem *Geography Lesson* in your reading booklet.

1. Look at lines 1-4 of the poem. What does the narrator's teacher say that he will do and why?

(2)

2. Look at lines 5-8. What do we learn about the difference between the teacher's everyday life and his imagination?

(2)

3. Give one word or phrase of your own for "drab" (line 10)

(1)

4. Look at line 12. What do you think is meant by “shook off the school’s stranglehold”?

(2)

5. Looking back at the poem as a whole, and without repeating what you have said before, *how* do you think the narrator feels about the teacher (make 2 points) and *why* do they feel this way? (make 2 points)

(4)

6. The poet refers in line 19 to a 'lesson'. What do you think the poem has to teach us and what makes you think that? You might consider:

- What we might gain from exploring new places
- What we can learn from observing other people's lives
- How we might influence other people

(4)

If you have finished, go back and check your answers until instructed to begin Section B, the Writing Test



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Section B

Time allowed 20 minutes

First name	
Last name	
Date of birth	
Name of my school	

Instructions:

You should use about 5 minutes for planning and 15 minutes for writing.

You will be awarded marks for organising your writing well and making the essay interesting.

Be careful with spelling, punctuation and paragraphing; you will earn more marks if your writing is accurate.

Use all of the time allowed.

Section B: Essay title: Write about a time when you went on an important journey

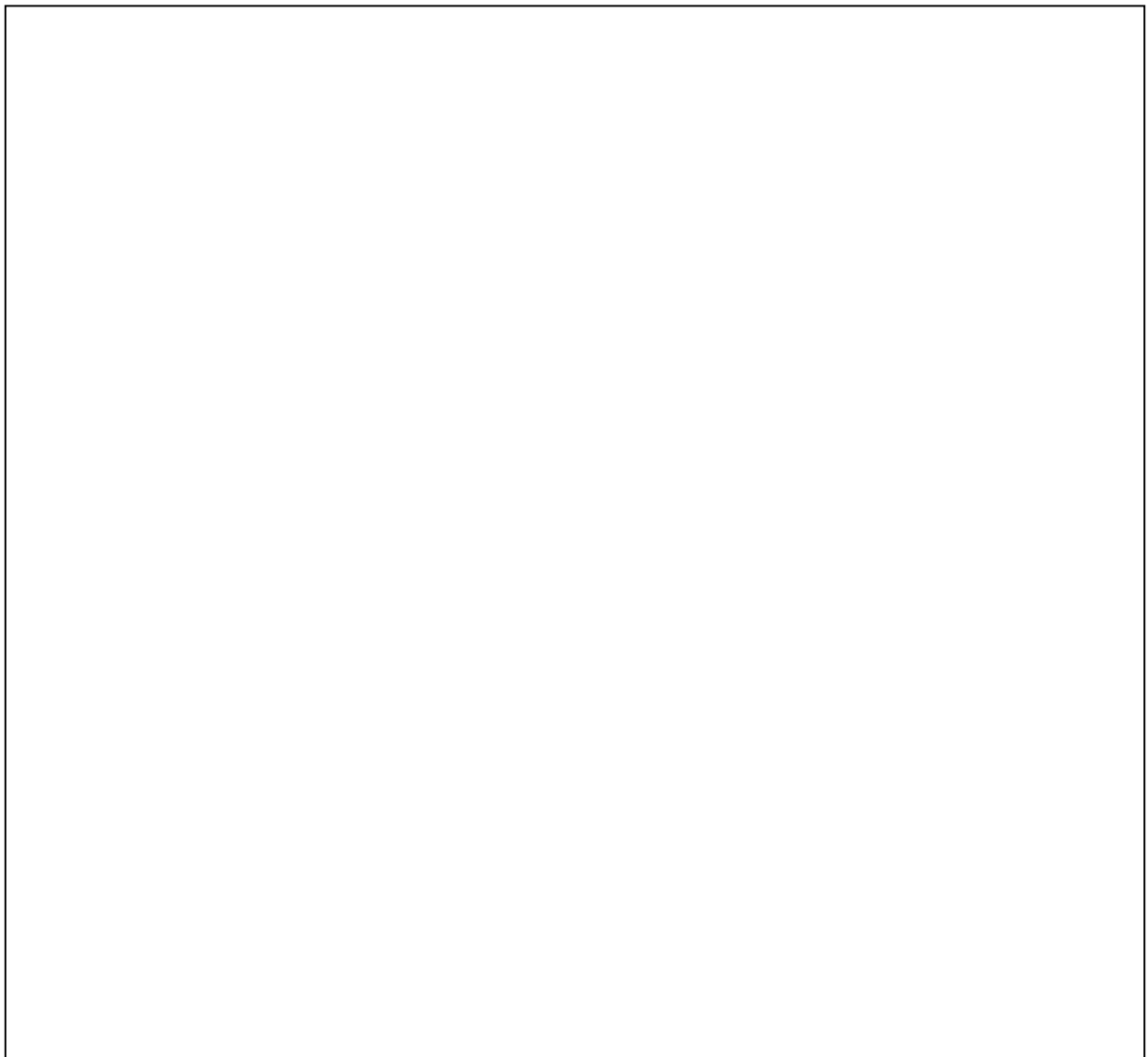
In your response, you might want to consider:

- Where you travelled to and why
- Highlights of this journey, and anything which made it challenging
- The lasting impacts, if any, that this journey had on you

[20 marks]

You do not have to use these bullet points – your own ideas are equally as valid, as long as you keep the essay title in mind. Your response can be real or imagined.

Use the box below to plan your essay.



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