



THE KING'S SCHOOL  

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C H E S T E R

## **ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

### **ENGLISH**

#### **Specimen Paper**

Time allowed: 1 hour

- Read through both the extracts - the passage and the poem.
- Now read them both through again, this time more carefully.
- Look at the marks awarded. There are:
  - 25 marks for Section A
  - 25 marks for Section B
- You should try to spend the same amount of time on each section
- For Section B make sure that you think and plan your answer before writing

## EXTRACT 1

### from 'Cho Oyu, by favour of the gods' by Herbert Tichy

*In the 1950s, the mountaineer Herbert Tichy climbed Mount Cho Oyu, the fifth highest mountain in the world. During the climb he experienced a storm of immense proportions – a terrible blizzard with huge winds. Here, Tichy and his three Sherpa guides, Pasang, Adjiba and Ang Nyima, are sheltering in their tent when the storm strikes.*

There was not a cloud in the sky. But we could not always see the sky; it was hidden by thick flurries of snow. A hurricane of a force I had never experienced scourged the snow-covered mountainside. The temperature was thirty to thirty-five degrees below zero. The most horrible part of it  
5 was the cloudless blue sky.

I crouched down beside Pasang in the snow. We could not stand up. The wind would have thrown us down or lifted us from the ground.

The other tent was also wrecked. The huddled bodies of Ang Nyima and Adjiba were moulded by the flattened canvas. We gave them a prod.  
10 They were still alive and crept out to join us. The four of us cowered together beside the flattened tents and stared into the vortex. We could only speak in shouts.

'Never known a storm like this,' Pasang shouted. 'All die.'

He repeated it again and again.

15 I agreed with him. We should all die. Adjiba and Ang Nyima said nothing. They sat huddled and dumb, their faces a bluish grey, marked by death – no, dead already. Their dark eyes were fixed on mine, asking no questions, hinting no reproach. They were gates to another world, at whose frontier we had now arrived.

#### Vocabulary:

scourged (line 3): *rubbed forcefully*

vortex (line 11): *whirling centre*

## SECTION A: READING SKILLS

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS (25 marks)

Read EXTRACT 1 – from ‘Cho Oyu, by favour of the gods’ by Herbert Tichy

- 1) Select three details from the passage which tell you about the terrible weather conditions. Explain how each one shows that the men had never experienced a snowstorm as bad as this.

(6 marks)

a) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) How does the writer build up tension in this passage?

(*Hint:* you could consider what the men are doing and how they feel.) (4 marks)

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## EXTRACT 2

### The poem 'Hurricane' by James Berry

*Born in Jamaica, James Berry is one of the Caribbean's foremost poets. In this poem, he describes a typical hurricane in his native land, where storms of this violent nature occur frequently.*

Under low black clouds  
the wind was all  
speedy feet, all horns and breath,  
all bangs, howls, rattles,  
5 in every hen house,  
church hall and school.

Roaring, screaming, returning,  
it made forced entry, shoved walls,  
made rifts, brought roofs down,  
10 hitting rooms to sticks apart.

It wrung soft banana trees,  
broke tough trunks of palms.  
It pounded vines of yams,  
left fields battered up.

15 Invisible with such ecstasy –  
with no intervention of sun or man –  
everywhere kept changing branches.

Zinc sheets are kites.  
Leaves are panic swarms.  
20 Fowls are fixed with feathers turned.  
Goats, dogs, pigs,  
all are people together.

Then growling it slunk away  
from muddy, mossy trail and boats  
25 in hedges: and cows, ratbats, trees,  
fish, all dead in the road.

#### Vocabulary

ecstasy (line 15): *feeling of energy*

**Read EXTRACT 2 – The poem ‘Hurricane’ by James Berry**

3) Find each of the following lines in the poem. In each case, explain in your own words what the poet means and name the technique he is using.

a) *Leaves are panic swarms* (line 19) (3 marks)

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b) *Fowls are fixed with feathers turned* (line 20) (3 marks)

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c) *Then growling it slunk away* (line 23) (3 marks)

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**Using both passages**

4) Which passage do you think best shows the power of the weather? Give two reasons for your answer.

(*Hint:* you could comment on any techniques the writer uses and consider how the passage makes you feel.) (6 marks)

a) \_\_\_\_\_

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b) \_\_\_\_\_

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**SECTION B: WRITING SECTION  
(25 marks)**

**Before you start writing make sure that you PLAN your writing carefully**

**Write approximately ONE side, but you can write more if you wish**

**Think carefully about the words you choose so that you interest your reader.**

**Take time to check that you have used capital letters, punctuation and paragraphs.**

**TASK**

**Describe** an occasion when you experienced some extreme weather. You could think about:

- the snow closing lots of schools for the day,
- some of the heavy rain which has caused floods
- being on holiday somewhere when it has been very hot.

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