

ST GEORGE'S COLLEGE

WEYBRIDGE

11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Sample Paper

ENGLISH

1 HOUR

Section A: Comprehension & Technical Task

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on this section

Please read the following extract from chapter 8 of “Just William” and answer the questions which follow it by underlining just one of the options.

THE OUTLAWS

It was a half-holiday and William was in his bedroom making careful preparations for the afternoon. On the mantel-piece stood in readiness half a cake (the result of a successful raid on the larder) and a bottle of liquorice water. This beverage was made by shaking up a piece of liquorice in water. It was much patronised by the band of Outlaws to which William belonged and which met secretly every half-holiday in a disused barn about a quarter of a mile from William’s house. 5

So far the Outlaws had limited their activities to wrestling matches, adventure seeking, and culinary operations. The week before, they had cooked two sausages which William had taken from the larder on cook’s night out and had conveyed to the barn beneath his shirt and next his skin. Perhaps “cooked” is too euphemistic a term. To be quite accurate, they had held the sausages over a smoking fire till completely blackened, and then consumed the charred remains with the utmost relish. 10

William put the bottle of licorice water in one pocket and the half cake in another and was preparing to leave the house in his usual stealthy fashion—through the bathroom window, down the scullery roof, and down the water-pipe hand over hand to the back garden. Even when unencumbered by the presence of a purloined half cake, William infinitely preferred this mode of exit to the simpler one of walking out of the front-door. As he came out on to the landing, however, he heard the sound of the opening and shutting of the hall door and of exuberant greetings in the hall. 15

“Oh! I’m so glad you’ve come, dear. And is this the baby! The *duck!* Well, den, how’s ’oo, den? Go—o—oo.” 20

This was William’s mother.

“Oh, crumbs!” said William and retreated hastily. He sat down on his bed to wait till the coast was clear. Soon came the sound of footsteps ascending the stairs.

“Oh, William,” said his mother, as she entered his room, “Mrs. Butler’s come with her baby to spend the afternoon, and we’d arranged to go out till tea-time with the baby, but she’s got such a headache, I’m insisting on her lying down for the afternoon in the drawing-room. But she’s so worried about the baby not getting out this nice afternoon.” 25

“Oh!” said William, without interest.

30

“Well, cook’s out and Emma has to get the tea and answer the door, and Ethel’s away, and I told Mrs. Butler I was *sure* you wouldn’t mind taking the baby out for a bit in the perambulator!”

William stared at her, speechless. The Medusa’s classic expression of horror was as nothing to William’s at that moment. Then he moistened his lips and spoke in a hoarse voice.

“*Me?*” he said. “*Me? Me* take a baby out in a pram?”

35

“Well, dear,” said his mother deprecatingly, “I know it’s your half holiday, but you’d be out of doors getting the fresh air, which is the great thing. It’s a nice baby and a nice pram and not heavy to push, and Mrs. Butler would be *so* grateful to you.”

“Yes, I should think she’d be that,” said William bitterly. “She’d have a right to be that if I took the baby out in a pram.”

40

“Now, William, I’m sure you’d like to help, and I’m sure you wouldn’t like your father to hear that you wouldn’t even do a little thing like that for poor Mrs. Butler. And she’s got such a headache.”

“*A little thing like that!*” repeated William out of the bitterness of his soul.

But the Fates were closing round him. He was aware that he would know no peace till he had done the horrible thing demanded of him. Sorrowfully and reluctantly he bowed to the inevitable.

45

“All right,” he muttered, “I’ll be down in a minute.”

He heard them fussing over the baby in the hall. Then he heard his elder brother’s voice.

“You surely don’t mean to say, mother,” Robert was saying with the crushing superiority of eighteen, “that you’re going to trust that child to—William.”

50

“Well,” said William’s mother, “someone has to take him out. It’s such a lovely afternoon. I’m sure it’s very kind of William, on his half-holiday, too. And she’s got *such* a headache.”

“Well, of course,” said Robert in the voice of one who washes his hands of all further responsibility, “you know William as well as I do.”

55

“Oh, dear!” sighed William’s mother. “And everything so nicely settled, Robert, and you must come and find fault with it all. If you don’t want William to take him out, will you take him out yourself?”

Robert retreated hastily to the dining-room and continued the conversation from a distance.

60

“I don’t want to take him out myself—thanks very much, all the same! All I say is—you know William as well as I do. I’m not finding fault with anything. I simply am stating a fact.”

Then William came downstairs.

“Here he is, dear, all ready for you, and you needn’t go far away—just up and down the road, if you like, but stay out till tea-time. He’s a dear little baby, isn’t he? And isn’t it a nice Willy-Billy den, to take it out a nice ta-ta, while its mummy goes bye-byes, den?”

65

William blushed for pure shame.

He pushed the pram down to the end of the road and round the corner. In comparison with William's feelings, the feelings of some of the early martyrs must have been pure bliss. A nice way for an Outlaw to spend the afternoon! He dreaded to meet any of his brother-outlaws, yet, irresistibly and as a magnet, their meeting-place attracted him. He wheeled the pram off the road and down the country lane towards the field which held their sacred barn. He stopped at the stile that led into the field and gazed wistfully across to the barn in the distance. The infant sat and sucked its thumb and stared at him. Finally it began to converse. 70 75

"Blab—blab—blab—blab—blub—blub—blub!"

"Oh, you shut up!" said William crushingly.

Annoyed at the prolonged halt, it seized its pram cover, pulled it off its hooks, and threw it into the road. While William was picking it up, it threw the pillow on to his head. Then it chuckled. William began to conceive an active dislike of it. Suddenly the Great Idea came to him. His face cleared. He took a piece of string from his pocket and tied the pram carefully to the railings. Then, lifting the baby cautiously and gingerly out, he climbed the stile with it and set off across the fields towards the barn. He held the baby to his chest with both arms clasped tightly round its waist. Its feet dangled in the air. It occupied the time by kicking William in the stomach, pulling his hair, and putting its fingers in his eyes. 80 85

"It beats me," panted William to himself, "what people see in babies! Scratchin' an' kickin' and blindin' folks and pullin' their hair all out!"

When he entered the barn he was greeted by a sudden silence.

"Look here!" began one outlaw in righteous indignation.

"It's a kidnap," said William, triumphantly. "We'll get a ransom on it." 90

They gazed at him in awed admiration. This was surely the cream of outlawry.

Unless the question asks you to write your answer on the dotted line below it, answer them by underlining just one of the options.

1. Explain the process of making liquorice water? (lines 2 – 4)

- a) Put liquorice in a bottle and shake it
- b) Put cake in a bottle and shake it
- c) Put cake and liquorice in a bottle and shake it

2. Did the Outlaws enjoy the sausages they cooked? (lines 10 – 12)

- a) No, because they burnt them
 - b) Yes, despite the fact they had burnt them
 - c) Yes, because they were hungry
3. Why did William prefer to exit his house through the bathroom window? (lines 13 – 17)
- a) Because he liked climbing
 - b) Because he enjoyed the feeling of doing something forbidden
 - c) Because he couldn't be bothered to walk down the stairs
4. What is William's reaction when he realises who is visiting? (lines 23 – 24)
- a) He was thrilled
 - b) He was worried
 - c) He was horrified
5. What does this phrase: 'The Medusa's classic expression of horror was as nothing to William's at that moment.' suggest about William's reaction to being asked to take the baby out for a walk? (lines 33 – 34)
- a) He would rather do something else
 - b) He thinks it is a terrible idea
 - c) He is scared he might not be able to cope
6. Why does William finally agree to the task? (lines 45 – 47)
- a) Because he knows his life will not be worth living if he does not
 - b) To show the baby off to the Outlaws
 - c) He wants to get away from his mother and Mrs Butler
7. Which of the following statements are true of William's elder brother's opinion of William taking the baby out for a walk? (lines 50 – 51)
- a) He thinks William can't be relied upon to look after a baby
 - b) He feels too superior to take out a baby himself
 - c) He is upset that William has being asked to take out the baby and not him
8. What does the sentence, 'In comparison with William's feelings, the feelings of some of the early martyrs must have been pure bliss.' imply about how William feels about pushing around a baby in a pram? (line 69)
- a) He feels really heroic

- b) He is very proud about being responsible enough to be trusted with a baby
- c) It is possibly the worst feeling he could ever imagine having to suffer

9. Write on the dotted line below the simile the writer uses to explain how William found it hard to resist taking the baby to the Outlaws den? (lines 68 – 75)

.....
.....

10. Why does the baby start throwing things out of the pram? (lines 78 -79)

- a) He doesn't like the pram stopping
- b) He wants his mother
- c) To annoy William

11. Explain on the dotted line below why has the writer put the 'Great Idea' in capital letters? (line 80)

.....
.....

12. When he entered the barn, what was the reaction of Outlaws at seeing William with a baby? (lines 88 – 89)

- a) Excitement
- b) Fear
- c) They thought it was funny
- d) Displeasure

13. Explain on the dotted line below what the phrase, 'surely the cream of outlawry.' suggests about the Outlaws opinion of William once they find out what he intends to do with the baby? (line 9)

.....
.....
.....

Vocabulary

Now answer these questions about the meanings of words

14. What is the meaning of patronised in line 4?

- a) used by
- b) known by
- c) made by

15. What is the meaning of euphemistic in line 10?

- a) horrible
- b) polite
- c) tasteless

16. What is the meaning of exuberant in line 18?

- a) surprised
- b) enthusiastic
- c) kind

17. What is the meaning of deprecatingly in line 36?

- a) unhappily
- b) disapprovingly
- c) worriedly

18. Put this whole sentence in your own words

'Even when unencumbered by the presence of a purloined half cake'

.....
.....
.....

SPaG

19. Complete the sentences below using either **I** or **me**.

Before the TV show started, William and _____ made some liquorice water.

The neighbour asked William and _____ to walk the baby.

20. william is starting spanish classes in march.

Circle the words in the sentence above that should start with a capital letter.

21. Change the question in the table below into a command.

Write the command in the box.

Question	Command
Can you walk the baby?	

22. Circle all the **adverbs** in the sentences below.

Quickly, the Outlaws ran to the small fire. They looked angrily at the sausages William had burnt.

23. Circle the **pronouns** in the sentence below?

Mother asked him to walk the baby. He did but took her baby to the den.

24. Circle the **preposition** in the sentence below.

It was after dinner that the computer was fixed

25. I thought the sausage tasted delicious but Louis said it tasted disgusting.

Put a tick in each row to show whether each underlined word is a noun or an adjective.

Word from the sentence	Noun	Adjective
sausage		
delicious		
disgusting		

26. Which sentence contains **two** verbs?

Tick **one**.

Dad walks to the shops every day.

William put his catapult on the shelf under the table.

Jack and Jill went up the hill very slowly.

Sam talked about his homework whilst eating his dinner.

27. Re- write the sentence below putting in the correct punctuation.

williams brother laughed he cant be trusted to look after a baby hell lose it

.....
.....
.....

28. Which of the sentences below is punctuated correctly?

Tick
one.

The (King who had a grey beard sat) majestically on his throne.

The King who had a grey beard sat (majestically on) his throne.

The King (who had a grey beard) sat majestically on his throne.

The King who had a grey beard sat (majestically on his throne).

29. Look at the passage below. Change all the verbs from the **past** tense to the **present** tense.

One has been done for you.

parks



The car parked outside the house at 3am.



Its engine roared as we tried to sleep.



Without warning, I saw the lights flash into the house.



"I hope it's not the police!" I thought

30. Put a tick in each row to show whether the **main** clause or the **subordinate** clause is in bold.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
My dad, who is thirty-eight , likes to read the paper.		
The sausage was delicious because it had extra tomato sauce on it.		
Although it was Tuesday , the bins weren't collected.		
The dog , which was black and white, chased after the ginger cat .		

Section B: Extended Writing Task

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on this section

In this section you will be assessed on the quality and accuracy of your writing, including spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Try to choose varied and interesting vocabulary and allow yourself at least five minutes to check through your work at the end.

Write a description of a train journey which you have experienced, or one that you imagine yourself experiencing.

Try to give a picture of the sights, sounds and smells on your journey and describe any interesting people or incidents which you see.

25 marks

END OF EXAM