



# 11+ Entrance Examination 2020

## English

Name: .....

Time: 45 Minutes

Instructions:

- The marks available for individual questions should guide the length and detail of your answers.
- You should spend about 15 minutes on each section.
- The accuracy of your spelling/punctuation/grammar will be assessed in Section C.

Section A:	Understanding	10 marks
Section B:	Comment and Analysis	10 marks
Section C:	Expressive Writing	30 marks

**Read the passage carefully, then answer all the questions in Sections A, B and C.**

The sweet-shop in Llandaff in the year 1923 was the very centre of our lives. But it had one terrible drawback, this sweet-shop. The woman who owned it was a horror. We hated her and we had good reason for doing so. 1

Her name was Mrs. Pratchett. She was a small skinny woman with a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry. She never smiled. She never welcomed us when we went in, and the only times she spoke were when she said things like, 'I'm watchin' you so keep yer thievin' fingers off them chocolates!' Or 'I don't want you in 'ere just to look around! Either you *forks* out or you *gets* out'\*. 5

But by far the most loathsome thing about Mrs. Pratchett was the filth that clung around her. Her apron was grey and greasy. Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk. It was her hands, however, that disturbed us most. They were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime. They looked as though they had been putting lumps of coal on the fire all day long. And do not forget please that it was these very hands and fingers that she plunged into the sweet-jars when we asked for a pennyworth\* of Treacle Toffee or Wine Gums or Nut Clusters\* or whatever. The mere sight of her grimy right hand with its black fingernails digging an ounce of Chocolate Fudge out of a jar would have caused most people to go running from the shop. But not us. Sweets were our life-blood. We would have put up with far worse than that to get them. So we simply stood and watched in sullen silence while this disgusting old woman stirred around inside the jars with her foul fingers. 10 15 20

You can understand why we had it in for Mrs. Pratchett in a big way, but we didn't quite know what to do about it. Many schemes were put forward but none of them was any good. None of them, that is, until suddenly, one memorable afternoon, we found the dead mouse. 25

My four friends and I had come across a loose floor-board at the back of the classroom, and when we prised it up with the blade of a pocket-knife, we discovered a big hollow space underneath. This, we decided, would be our secret hiding-place for sweets and other small treasures such as conkers and monkey-nuts\* and birds' eggs. 30

One day, when we lifted it up, we found a dead mouse. It was an exciting discovery. Thwaites took it out by its tail and waved it in front of our faces. 'What shall we do with it?' he cried.

**Glossary:**

- \* 'Either you *forks* out...' – She is saying that she wants them in the shop only if they are buying sweets.
- \* Pennyworth – most sweets used to be weighed out from glass jars and a pennyworth was the amount of sweets that could be bought for one penny.
- \* Conkers – the nut of the Horse Chestnut tree. A large reddish-brown round nut that children used to play games with.
- \* Monkey-nuts – an old name for peanuts, in their shells

**END OF TEXT**

**Section A: Understanding - 10 marks**

1. When and where is the passage set? (1 mark)

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2. What is the name of the sweetshop owner? (1 mark)

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3. Explain what the narrator might mean when he says: "*the sweetshop...was the very centre of our lives.*" (2 marks)

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4. Find two short quotations that show the narrator dislikes the sweetshop owner. (2 marks)

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5. Explain how the boys might be feeling in the quotation: "*So we simply stood and watched in sullen silence.*" (2 marks)

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6. If you were writing this story, how would you choose to continue it? Please provide one reason for your answer. (2 marks)

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**Section B: Comment and Analysis - 10 marks**

1. On line 4 it says: “...a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry” What is the effect of the simile? (2 marks)

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2. On line 6 it says: “I’m watchin’ you so keep yer thievin’ fingers off them chocolates!” What do you think is the effect of the exclamation mark? (2 marks)

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3. Look at the section of the story below. How does the writer use language to present Mrs Pratchett in this extract? (6 marks)

But by far the most loathsome thing about Mrs. Pratchett was the filth that clung around her. Her apron was grey and greasy. Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk. It was her hands, however, that disturbed us most. They were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime. They looked as though they had been putting lumps of coal on the fire all day long. And do not forget please that it was these very hands and fingers that she plunged into the sweet-jars when we asked for a pennyworth\* of Treacle Toffee or Wine Gums or Nut Clusters\* or whatever.

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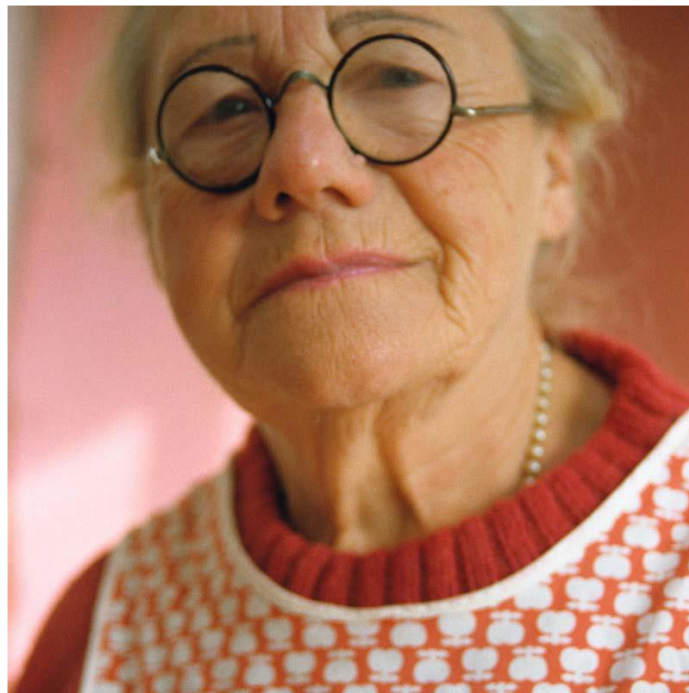
## Section C: Expressive Writing - 30 marks

*Please note the instructions*

- *Make your writing as descriptive and vivid as possible*
- *Description is far more important than narrative*
- *You should aim to write approximately 1 to 1½ sides*
- *Write on the lined paper provided*
- *Write your name on the lined paper provided*
- *Plan your writing before you start: the plan will NOT be marked*
- *The accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will form part of the assessment in this section.*

**Either:**

Write a story in which this character features:



**Or**

Write a story about a character who plays a trick or practical joke on someone. The story could be real or imagined.



