

# 11+ Entrance Examination

## English

Name: .....

Time: 45 Minutes

Instructions:

- You should spend about **25 minutes** on Section A
  - *spend 5 minutes reading the passage.*
- You should spend **20 minutes** on Section B.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
  - *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question*
- The accuracy of your spelling/punctuation/grammar will be assessed in Section B.

Section A:    Comment and Analysis            20 marks

Section B:    Expressive Writing                    20 marks



**Read the passage carefully, then answer all the questions in Section A**

1 The platform was a battlefield: seventy yards of carnage transplanted straight from the coasts of northern France.

Smoke billowed; people clung to each other. There were cries of pain, howls of despair as loved ones were ripped apart. There were silent tears too, quiet reassurances whispered into ears: that this was temporary, that  
5 it changed nothing, I am still your mother, your parent.

Against the tide of devastation walked a boy: tutting and huffing at the tears and carrying-on. He looked just like any of the other evacuees in the station: regulation case, tag and gas mask box. But instead of being shoehorned onto a train, he was marching away from one, having just arrived.

He had no idea where he was heading, nor any real sense of who he was to look for, but he knew he wanted no  
10 part of the drama going on around him. He scoured the crowd, cursing at the smoke that bit his eyes. It didn't take much to light the end of his fuse, and the long journey down had been more than enough to set him smouldering.

He seethed under his breath, then over it, not caring who heard. He'd give it a minute; see if anyone presented themselves. And if they didn't? Well he'd just sneak on to a train and be pulled back north. He'd hide out in the  
15 guard's van, amongst the musty sacks of letters from soldiers begging to come home. He knew how they felt. He wanted to go home too, despite everything. He certainly didn't want to be here.

It had been two months since his father had marched to war. Long months, both of them, and every day had hardened him, tightening the cog in his gut, winding up his anger, his fury.

He peered again at the faces by the barrier, not knowing who he was looking for, nor how he'd react if someone  
20 had the audacity to smile or beckon him forward.

He didn't know the woman he was meant to be meeting, nor did he want to, and now that she'd failed to present herself, he was not disappointed.

I'll go home he said to himself. Didn't have to be to his grandmother. The cow. He'd not go anywhere he wasn't  
25 wanted. Not any more. He'd find an empty place. There were plenty of them around. He'd live off scraps, whatever he could find. He'd not let anyone stop him. No one would dare.

But as the boy spun to return north, he felt a hand on the strap of his box. Not a gentle hand. It clutched at him like a barn owl would a mouse.

"Joseph Palmer?" The boy recognised the tone, he'd heard it plenty of times before. A bobby, he was sure of it.

"Joseph? Is that who you are?"

30 A face craned over his shoulder and into view, too close to focus on. He couldn't see the chin strap of a policeman's helmet, just a shocking frizz of greying red hair that sprung in all directions.

"I'm here to collect you lad."

A woman. A hard face – lived in. And a deep, gravelly voice. The boy looked in her eyes and dared her to look back. She did, and seemed almost as happy to be there as he was.

- 35 “Don’t know what you’re talking about, Missus. I’m just leaving. Sending me to the country, they are, with the others.”

The woman gripped harder at the strap. “With an accent like that? I don’t think so, Joseph.”

The boy didn’t like the way she was holding him, or how she was challenging him, even if it were true. He shrugged his shoulder, then swung it, all the time eyeing her angrily, but her clasp didn’t give a bit.

**Section A: Reading - 20 marks**

**Please answer these questions. Look at the passage again if you need to. You *do not* need to write full sentences for the 1-mark questions.**

1. Re-read the first paragraph. Where is the story set?

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[1 mark]

2. “*He looked just like any of the other evacuees in the station.*” (lines 6-7) What is an “*evacuee*”?

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[1 mark]

3. “*The platform was a battlefield: seventy yards of carnage...*” (line 1) What does “*carnage*” mean?

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[1 mark]

4. “*Against the tide of devastation walked a boy*” (line 6) What technique is used here?

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[1 mark]

5. “*He’d hide out in the guard’s van, amongst the musty sacks of letters*” (line 14-15) What does “*musty*” mean?

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[1 mark]

6. “*It didn’t take much to light the end of his fuse*” (lines 10-11) What does this statement tell us about the boy’s personality?

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[1 mark]

7. "He had no idea where he was heading, nor any real sense of who he was to look for, but he knew he wanted no part of the drama going on around him. He scoured the crowd, cursing at the smoke that bit his eyes. It didn't take much to light the end of his fuse, and the long journey down had been more than enough to set him smouldering." (lines 9-12). What things are irritating the boy?

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[2 marks]

8. How does the boy feel about:

- a. The other evacuees
- b. His father
- c. His grandmother

Include **one short quotation** for each answer to support your point of view.

[6 marks]

The other evacuees:

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His father:

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His grandmother:

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## **Section B: Expressive Writing - 20 marks**

*Please note the instructions*

- *Make your writing as descriptive and vivid as possible*
- *Description is as important as narrative*
- *You should aim to write approximately 1 to 1½ sides*
- *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.*

**Choose ONE of the following tasks:**

**EITHER**

- 1. Continue writing the story from the boy's point of view.**

Good answers will show:

- An understanding of what the boy is likely to be feeling, and how he might express himself.
- An understanding of what might reasonably happen next. (It is unlikely, for example, that an alien spaceship will arrive in this story...)
- We have started the paragraph for you. You may use it if you wish to.

*The boy didn't like the way she was holding him, or how she was challenging him, even if it were true. He shrugged his shoulder, then swung it, all the time eyeing her angrily, but her clasp didn't give a bit.*

**OR**

- 2. Write a story about a train journey. It can be set in the present day, or in the past.**

Good answers will show:

- Detailed description of the journey.



