

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



YEAR 7 (11+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

January 2021

for entry in September 2021

ENGLISH



Name: _____

School: _____

Time allowed: 5 minutes reading time, then 1 hour exam.

You are advised to spend approximately 35 minutes on Section A and 25 minutes on section B.

Equipment needed: Pen and lined paper

Information for candidates:

1. Dictionaries are NOT allowed.
2. Write your name and school on this page.
3. You may NOT make notes on this exam paper during the 5 minutes of reading time. After the first 5 minutes of reading time you may write on this paper.
4. Write your answers on the separate paper provided. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use. Answer both Section A and Section B.
5. You should write in full sentences and pay attention to both spelling and punctuation.
6. The paper will be marked out of 35. The marks for each question are indicated in the square brackets [].

SECTION A

Total marks available for this section are 20

Read the extract below, taken from the opening of the novel “*Call of The Wild*” by Jack London and the questions that follow:

5 Buck did not read the newspapers, or he would have known that trouble was brewing, not alone for himself, but for every tide-water dog, strong of muscle and with warm, long hair, from Puget Sound* to San Diego. Because men, groping in the Arctic darkness, had found a yellow metal, and thousands of men were rushing into the Northland. These men wanted dogs, and the dogs they wanted were heavy dogs, with strong muscles by which to toil, and furry coats to protect them from the frost.

10 Buck lived at a big house in the sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley. Judge Miller's place, it was called. It stood back from the road, half hidden among the trees, through which glimpses could be caught of the wide cool veranda that ran around its four sides. The house was approached by graveled driveways which wound about through wide-spreading lawns and under the interlacing boughs of tall poplar trees. At the rear things were on even a more spacious scale than at the front. There were great stables, where a dozen grooms and boys lived, rows of vine-clad servants' cottages, an endless and orderly collection of
15 outhouses, green pastures, orchards, and berry patches. Then there was the pumping plant for the well, and the big cement tank where Judge Miller's boys took their morning plunge and kept cool in the hot afternoon.

20 And over this great estate Buck ruled. Here he was born, and here he had lived the four years of his life. It was true, there were other dogs, there had to be other dogs on so vast a place, but they did not count. They came and went, resided in the kennels, or lived quietly in the house after the fashion of Toots, the Japanese pug, or Ysabel, the Mexican hairless, — strange creatures that rarely put nose out of doors or set foot to ground. On the other
25 hand, there were the fox terriers, who yelped fearful promises at Toots and Ysabel looking out of the windows at them and protected by a legion of housemaids armed with brooms and mops.

30 But Buck was neither house-dog nor kennel-dog. The whole realm was his. He plunged into the swimming tank or went hunting with the Judge's sons; he escorted Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughters, on long twilight or early morning rambles; on wintry nights he lay at the Judge's feet before the roaring library fire; he carried the Judge's grandsons on his back, or rolled them in the grass, and guarded their footsteps through wild adventures down to the fountain in the stable yard, and even beyond, where the paddocks were, and the berry patches. Among the terriers he stalked imperiously, and Toots and
35 Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king, —king over all creeping, crawling, flying things of Judge Miller's place, humans included.

40 During the four years since his puppyhood he had lived the life of an aristocrat; he had pride in himself. But he had saved himself by not becoming a mere pampered housedog. Hunting and other outdoor delights had kept down the fat and hardened his muscles; and to him, the swimming races, the love of water had been a tonic and a health preserver.

*An inlet of water near Seattle.

From: *The Call of The Wild*: Jack London: first published 1903
Edited from Project Gutenberg edition.

1. Look again at the first paragraph. Why are the men so keen to find dogs to get to “the Northland”? [2 marks]
2. What impression do you have of the character of Buck? Include words or phrases from the extract to support your answer. [8 marks]
3. Which details given by the writer tell you what Judge Miller’s place is like? [5 marks]
4. What is life like for Buck? [5 marks]

SECTION B

Total marks available for this section are 15

Choose **ONE** option:

EITHER

1. Continue the passage, writing about what happens to Buck next.

OR

2. Write a descriptive passage entitled: An Unexpected Journey