

11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION



SOLIHULL

SAMPLE PAPER

ENGLISH



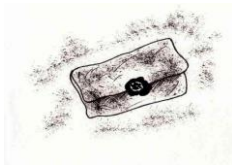
11+ English Entrance Examination

Time allowed: 1 hour

There are **two tasks**; you should attempt them both. You should aim to spend **one hour** on both tasks.

Task 1

Read the passage then answer the questions that follow. The extract is taken from Tonke Dragt's novel, *The Letter for the King*. The novel is set long ago in a magical kingdom. Tiuri is a sixteen year old boy who dreams of being a knight. Whilst wandering in the Blue Forest, Tiuri discovers the Black Knight with the White Shield who is lying wounded and helpless after being ambushed by the Red Riders. Before he dies, the knight pleads for Tiuri's assistance; he asks the boy to go on a perilous mission to deliver a secret letter to King Unauwen who lives in the west across the Great Mountains – a letter upon which the future of the entire realm depends. The passage begins after Tiuri has accepted the knight's desperate plea for help; he has started his journey to the west and finds himself in the heart of the Blue Forest. This task is worth **thirty - five marks**.



Chapter Three

The Sound of a Horn



The first thing Tiuri did the next morning was climb as high as possible into a tree, so that he could work out the right direction from the position of the sun.

He soon set off again, wondering how long the journey through the forest would take and how close he would be to the Blue River when it emerged.

The Blue River also flowed through the City of Dagonaut and past Castle Tehuri, Tiuri's home. Its source was in the Great Mountains, and it flowed eastwards before curving to the north, around the Blue Forest, and then to the southeast, through the City of Dagonaut, and finally along the the country's eastern border. Tiuri had heard that the First Great Road ran alongside the river for some way close near the mountains, but he did not know where the river's source was, the exact point where the river began. From the City of Dagonaut to the mountains in the west was a journey of around eight to ten days by horse along the road itself, but he heard about it from travellers and knights-errant. His journey was sure to take longer, and still he would only have travelled as far as the mountains. The way was long and the letter was important, and the Black Knight said there was little time to lose. The Black Knight might have dared to take the Great Road himself, but he had been armed – Tiuri had no weapons at all.

The journey through the forest proved hard and slow. Sometimes he had to lead the horse and, to make it easier to fight his way through the unergrowth, Tiuri tore off a large strip from the bottom of his robe. That morning, he had eaten the last of the bread given to him the previous day by the Fool of the Forest and so had to survive on whatever he could find: fruit and roots, as he had no weapons to catch any prey

and no time to make traps. He encountered no one all day. It seemed as if no one ever set foot in the forest.



On the fourth day of his journey, however, events took a different turn. Tiuri heard the sound of voices and of people making their way through the undergrowth. He quickly hid and waited to see what would happen. The voices moved away, but soon after that a young man walked close by, close to Tiuri's hiding place. He was dressed in grey and was leading a horse. Tiuri could see that he was armed. He kept stopping and looking around, but he didn't spot Tiuri or his black horse. He soon disappeared, but Tiuri could hear him speaking to someone.

"Where have they all got to?"

"They're hunting further to the north," said another voice. "Have you seen anything?"

"Nothing. And no tracks either. But it's hard to say. This part of the forest is so wild. You could search for days here without ever finding anyone. But he has to be somewhere."

"All I can see is trees, trees and more trees!" grumbled the other voice. "And thorns and creepers to trip you up! This forest is the perfect hiding place for a person who does not wish to be found."

The voices grew fainter until Tiuri could no longer understand what they were saying. Then, in the distance, he heard the clear sound of a hunting horn.

"Come on!" Tiuri heard someone shout.

And then he was alone again. Tiuri put his arm around the horse's neck and whispered, "So who were they? A hunting party? But what are they hunting?"

The horse didn't answer, but Tiuri felt that it could understand him and that it had its own thoughts about the men who were roaming the forest.

If I'm careful, they won't see me, thought Tiuri. He sighed. Would it always be like this, having to be suspicious of everyone, scared that they might be enemies? He travelled on, even more warily, and saw no one else, although he did hear the distant sound of the horn a few times.

Sir Fantumar had a famous horn, which he had once used to summon his men to battle, a long time ago, when enemies from the east invaded the country. When Tiuri had been Sir Fantumar's squire, he had listened breathlessly as the knight told of his adventures. Now he was in the middle of an adventure himself. *Perhaps one day, he thought, my squire will listen as I tell him my tale . . . if I ever get out of this in one piece . . . and if I ever become a knight . . .*

1. Is the passage written from the first or the third person perspective? How can you tell?

Answer.....
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.....(2)

2. In your own words, write out the meaning of the word 'emerged' (line 4).

Answer.....
.....
.....(2)

3. How many days will it take to travel from the City of Dagonaut to the Great Mountains?

Answer.....
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.....(3)

4. What impression do we get of the forest? What is it like? What suggests this?

Answer.....
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..... (5)

5. Explain the meaning of the word 'encountered'.

Answer.....
.....
..... (2)

6. What type of word is 'encountered'? Is it a noun, adjective, verb, adverb or preposition? How can you tell?

Answer.....
.....
..... (2)

7. Why did events take 'a different turn' on the fourth day? What happened?

Answer.....
.....
..... (3)

