



THE PERSE

UPPER SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

Year 7 (11+) Entrance Assessments

Sample English Paper 2

The English paper lasts 45 minutes and is a single task, taken from a choice of two tasks. The task is a creative response to a given passage, and will focus on a pupil's understanding of the passage as well as their creative and writing ability.

Instructions to candidates

Time allowed: 45 minutes

1. There is one section to this paper.
2. Remember to plan your answer, but also to leave enough time to write your answer.
3. Please remember that you cannot ask any questions about the paper during the exam.
4. There are **40 marks** available in total.

Read the extract below, and then complete **one** of the two tasks. There are 40 marks available for this task.

20 marks are for the content of your writing, which should demonstrate your understanding of the passage.

20 marks are for the written accuracy and techniques in your writing, including your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

This extract is from a short story set in Southern Africa. A woman has been away from home for many years, and describes arriving back in her home town after a long bus journey. Her daughter, Maria, is there to collect her.

The bus came to a standstill and all the passengers spilled out as soon as they could. It was Friday, end of the week, end of the month, end of the year, and the trip from Windhoek to the north was hot and unending. Unlike previous times, I remained in my seat until the bus was empty. Then I gathered my belongings and moved to the door. Through the window I could see Maria scrambling to claim my two suitcases.

The heat of the late afternoon sun hit me as I alighted from the bus. The warmth outside was different from the human heat that I felt inside the bus. Now the smell of sweat and over-spiced fast food seemed like a distant memory. The welcome smell of meat that had been in the sun too long filled my nostrils. I could even hear the buzzing of the metallic-green-coloured flies as they circled and landed on the meat hanging from the trees and the makeshift stalls. Circled and landed, circled and landed...sellers and buyers were busy closing the last deals of the day. The air was filled with expectancy.

Tasks – complete **one** of the two tasks below.

EITHER

1) Continue the story from the narrator’s point of view, once Maria greets her as the narrator gets off the bus. You don’t need to write the entire story, just the next section.

Things you could include might be:

- Describe more of the setting
- Explore the narrator’s feelings
- Describe what the narrator does next [40]

OR

2) As well as the sense of “expectancy”, the passage suggests a lot about the area they live in. Write a description of what Maria’s home and family life might be like in an area like this.

Things you could include might be:

- Describe the setting of the inside of the house
- Explore the behaviour of family members when they arrive home
- Describe the greeting the narrator receives. [40]







