



St. Anselm's College

Entrance Examination

English Sample Paper 3

1 hour

Section A: Reading

You should aim to spend 30 minutes on this section.

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions which follow. *Roald Dahl is a well-known author of children's books. His autobiographical collection 'Boy' shares stories from his own childhood. In this story, he describes the family's first outing in their first ever motor car in 1925. His older sister is driving the car and has only had two half-hour lessons...*

The words in **bold** are explained in a glossary at the end of the text.

- 1) Down the drive we went and out into the village of **Llandaff** itself. Fortunately, there were very few vehicles on the roads in those days. Occasionally you met a small truck or a delivery-van and now and again a private car, but the danger of colliding with anything else was fairly remote so long as you kept the car on the road.
- 2) The splendid black **tourer** crept slowly through the village with the driver pressing the rubber bulb of the horn every time we passed a human being, whether it was the butcher-boy on his bicycle or just a pedestrian strolling on the pavement. Soon we were entering a countryside of green fields and high hedges with not a soul in sight.
- 3) "You didn't think I could do it, did you?" cried the ancient sister, turning round and grinning at us all.
- 4) "Now you keep your eyes on the road," my mother said nervously.
- 5) "Go faster!" we shouted. "Go on! Make her go faster! Put your foot down! We're only doing fifteen miles an hour!"
- 6) **Spurred** on by our shouts and taunts, the ancient sister began to increase the speed. The engine roared and the body vibrated. The driver was clutching the steering-wheel as though it were the hair of a drowning man, and we all watched the speedometer needle creeping up to twenty, then twenty-five, then thirty. We were probably doing about thirty-five miles an hour when we came suddenly to a sharpish bend in the road. The ancient sister, never having been faced with a situation like this before, shouted "Help!" and slammed on the brakes and swung the wheel wildly round. The rear wheels locked and went into a fierce sideways skid, and then, with a marvellous crunch of mudguards and metal, we went crashing into the hedge.

7) The front passengers all shot through the front windscreen and the back passengers all shot through the back windscreen. Glass flew in all directions and so did we. My brother and one sister landed on the bonnet of the car, someone else was catapulted out on to the road and at least one small sister landed in the middle of the hawthorn hedge. But miraculously nobody was hurt very much except me. My nose had been cut almost clean off my face as I went through the rear windscreen and now it was hanging on only by a single small thread of skin. My mother disentangled herself from the **wreckage** and grabbed a handkerchief from her purse. She clapped the dangling nose back into place fast and held it there.

8) Not a cottage or a person was in sight, let alone a telephone. Some kind of bird started twittering in a tree farther down the road, otherwise all was silent. My mother was bending over me in the rear seat and saying, "Lean back and keep your head still." To the ancient sister she said, "Can you get this thing going again?" The sister pressed the starter and to everyone's surprise, the engine fired. "Back it out of the hedge," my mother said. "And hurry." The sister had trouble finding reverse gear. The **cogs** were grinding against one another with a fearful noise of tearing metal. "I've never actually driven it backwards," she admitted at last.

9) Everyone with the exception of the driver, my mother and me was out of the car and standing on the road. The noise of gear-wheels grinding against each other was terrible. It sounded as though a lawn-mower was being driven over hard rocks. The ancient sister was using bad words and going crimson in the face, but then my brother leaned his head over the driver's door and said, "Don't you have to put your foot on the **clutch**?"

10) The harassed driver let out the clutch-pedal and the gears meshed and one second later the great black beast leapt backwards out of the hedge and careered across the road into the hedge on the other side.

Glossary:

- **Llandaff** – a village in Wales
- **Tourer** – the model of the car
- **Spurred** – to encourage or urge someone to do something
- **Wreckage** - the remains of something that has been badly damaged
- **Cogs** – an engine has cogs – wheels with tiny teeth that fit together, making the engine run.
- **Clutch** – the clutch in a manual car works by connecting and disconnecting the engine's power to the transmission. This allows for smooth gear changes.

Section A: Reading questions

Answer the following questions in sentences. Refer to the extract about the trip in the motor car for your answers. The mark allocated is placed after each question. The mark will guide you by indicating how many points you should make.

1. Paragraph 1- who did you occasionally see on the roads in those days?
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..... (1)

2. Paragraph 2 – what did the driver do every time they passed someone?
.....
.....
..... (1)

3. Paragraphs 4 & 5 – how are the passengers feeling on this journey?
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.....
.....
..... (2)

4. Find three **verbs** used to describe the car in paragraph 6.
(i) (1)
(ii) (1)
(iii) (1)

5. Find an example of **simile** used to describe the sister's driving in paragraph 6.
.....
..... (1)

6. Find one **adverb** used in paragraph 7.
..... (1)

7. What noises does the writer describe in paragraph 8?
(i) (1)
(ii) (1)

8. What impressions do we get of the writer's mother in this story?

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

9. Find an example of **personification** in Paragraph 10.

.....
..... (1)

10. What do the following underlined words from the passage mean?

(i) Harassed (1)

(ii) Careered (1)

11. How does the writer create tension for the reader in paragraphs 6 and 7?

In your answer you should write about:

- How the writer describes his sister losing control of the car
- What happens after they crash into the hedge
- particular words, phrases and techniques that the writer has used to create a story that fills the reader with tension and suspense.

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..... (4)

Total marks for Section A: 20 marks

Section B: Writing

Spend 5 minutes planning your writing. Then spend about 25 minutes completing your response.

Think about:

- how to start your writing
- how to keep it interesting
- how to conclude it

Choose one of the following tasks:

EITHER:

- 1) Write a short story about an event when something dramatic or frightening that happened to you and a friend/family member. Describe the event (either real or fictional), and make sure that you capture the drama and/or fear of this.

OR:

- 2) You have been gifted a treat day where you and your friends can enjoy a day go-karting around different tracks. Describe the excitement of this experience so that others feel inspired to go. What happened and how did it make you feel?

Total marks for Section B: 20 marks