**PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME IN THIS BOX**

**Oldham Hulme Grammar School**

**SPECIMEN ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

**ENGLISH PAPER**

**Part 1 (30 minutes)**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO**

**When you have read the passage, answer the questions which follow using full sentences where appropriate.**

**The marks for each question are indicated, and are there to help you.  Find as many points as you can, in order to gain maximum marks.**

**Please be careful about spelling and punctuation in your answers.**

**The extract below is taken from ‘I, Coriander’, a novel written by Sally Gardner.  The story is told by Coriander who lives in London during the seventeenth century.  In the passage Coriander and her friend Gabriel are trying to rescue Coriander’s step sister, Hester.  Hester is being held prisoner in the home where Coriander used to live by Coriander’s evil step mother and her new partner, Arise.**

**Passage**

Suddenly, a green light shot out from the study window and flashed across the river.  Gabriel quickly put out our lantern and we moved the boat away from the water gate to have a better look.  We both stared up at the house, unsure of what we had seen.  Then it happened again, the green light flashing from the window like a knife across the water.

As if we had both spoken without words, Gabriel turned the boat towards the water gate and this time we tugged as if our very lives depended on it.  For a moment I thought the boat would capsize but we managed to steady it and found that we could lift the gate enough to glide under.  We pushed our way in, keeping our heads low.  Slap, slap, slap went the river as it hit the steps and the wall.  Gabriel lit the lantern again as something slithered and flopped heavily into the water near the steps.

‘Hell’s bells, what was that?’ said Gabriel, turning round and lifting the lantern high.

A rat sat staring at us before scurrying away.

It was hard to believe that this dark, dank place with the tidemark etched into its once white stone had ever been a place of excitement, of happy comings and goings.  Now it felt abandoned and haunted, the river water swirling darkly beneath boat.

‘The sooner we find Hester, the sooner we can be out of here,’ whispered Gabriel, tying the boat to a post.

We made our way up the steps towards the door that led into the house.  I was surprised to find it locked.  For a moment I could only think that we were to be thwarted in our plan from the outset.  Then I remembered where we had always kept a spare key.  I put my hand up to the ridge where one stone was hollower than the rest and there to my relief my fingers found the key.

Gabriel carefully put it in the door and turned it.  It made a clunk which to us sounded as loud as thunder, and I was sure that at any moment Arise would appear before us, sword in hand.  We waited with beating hearts but, hearing not a sound, opened the door and let ourselves into the dark hall.

If ever a house could feel sorry for itself it was this one, brought low by grime and neglect.  It smelt musty, and it was clear that no one had swept or cleaned here since Hester had gone.

Although I had known the house all my life, it took a while for my eyes to get used to the gloom and make out the familiar shape of the hall.  Suddenly, to our consternation\*, the study door burst open and light spilt out on to the floor.  My heart near failed me for I was sure that someone had heard us and was coming to see what was going on.  We stayed rooted to the spot, hardly daring to breathe, but nothing happened, no one emerged.  Gabriel gave a sigh of relief, then squeezed my arm before slipping up the stairs, as quiet as a cat.

\* Consternation means confusion or upset

1. What do Gabriel and Coriander see coming out of the study window?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. mark)
2. What slithers into the water near the steps?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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(1 mark)

3. How do Coriander and Gabriel manage to get into the house?

Tick **one**.

They break down the door

They use the spare key

They climb through the study window (1 mark)

4. Decide whether the following statements are true or false

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | True | False |
| Gabriel and Coriander have a close bond |  |  |
| Gabriel and Coriander travel to the old house on foot |  |  |
| Coriander is pleased to see her old house again |  |  |

(3 marks)

5. Using information from the paragraph that begins ‘It was hard to believe’ (L16) explain how the house has changed.

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6. Look at the paragraph beginning, ‘If ever a house could feel sorry for itself..’ (L31). Write down **three** other words or phrases that tell us the house has not been properly cared for.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(3 marks)

7. Coriander tells us that she ‘had known the house all my life’(L34).  Choose **one** word from the same paragraph that shows that Coriander knows the house.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

8. The last paragraph in the passage (beginning L34) describes a tense and exciting moment.

Write down two words or phrases from the same paragraph which are tense or exciting and explain how the writer uses language to make them sound tense and exciting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quotations  | How the language makes this moment sound tense and exciting |
| 1.) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 2.) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

(4 marks)

9. Write down the meaning of the following words from the passage. (They are underlined in the passage).

Abandoned (L18): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thwarted (L24): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emerged (L39): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(3 marks)

10. What have you learned about the character of Gabriel from the passage?

You must use at least two appropriate adjectives (describing words) and support each one with evidence (quotations) from the passage to support your opinion.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adjective (describing word) | Word or phrase from the passage which shows this |
|  |  |
|  |  |

 (4 marks)

11. After reading the passage would you like to read the rest of the story, ‘I, Coriander’?  Explain why or why not.

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(2 marks)

Total: 25 Marks

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**SPECIMEN ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

**ENGLISH PAPER**

**Part 2 (30 minutes)**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO**

**Instructions**

1. Choose only **one** of the following subjects and use the time allowed to write about it.
2. **All of the questions are worth the same number of marks.**

3 **Think** very carefully before you make your choice and do not change your mind once you have started.

4 **Check** your work before you hand it in. You will be told when you have five minutes left.

5 Take care with **spelling, punctuation** and **paragraphing** and try to be **neat.** 5 of the 25 marks for this task are specifically for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

6 You will be given 5 minutes to **plan** what you will write before you start.

**Plan your writing here**

EITHER

1. Write an account of a rescue which can be real or imaginary.

OR

1. Write a detailed description of **either**:
* A boat journey

**Or**:

* An evil character with magical powers

OR

1. In the passage Coriander and her friend Gabriel are trying to rescue Coriander’s step sister, Hester.  Hester is being held prisoner in the home where Coriander used to live by Coriander’s evil step mother and her new partner, Arise.

Write another short chapter for this novel. Try to make your chapter exciting and enjoyable!

You might use one of the following ideas, or a different episode of your choice.

* + While trying to resuce Hester Gabriel and Coriander are discovered by Coriander’s evil step mother, Maud, and her new partner Arise.
	+ Gabriel and Coriander manage to find Hester and escape by boat.

Total: 25 marks