



Babington House School

English Scholarship Examination Practice Question Booklet

Advice for candidates

This Paper is made up of 3 sections:

Section 1 – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (6 marks)

Section 2 – Reading (19 marks)

Section 3 – Creative writing (25 marks)

The total for this paper is 50 marks

The total time allowed is 40 minutes

Section 1 – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

- Candidates should aim to spend **about 5 minutes** on this section
 - Answer the questions that follow by writing the letter A, B, C or D in the appropriate **answer boxes**
 - Each question is worth **1 mark**
1. Which of these sentences uses **capital letters** correctly?
 - A. On Wednesday, Joe and Henry were walking in the lake district.
 - B. on Wednesday, Joe and Henry were walking in the Lake District.
 - C. On Wednesday, Joe and Henry were walking in the Lake district.
 - D. On Wednesday, Joe and Henry were walking in the Lake District.
 2. The prefix **fore-** can be added to the word see to make the word **foresee**. What does the word **foresee** mean?
 - A. To see immediately
 - B. To see earlier
 - C. To see beneath
 - D. To see again
 3. Which of these sentences is punctuated correctly?
 - A. Lucy screamed "Is anybody there"?
 - B. Lucy screamed, "Is anybody there"?
 - C. Lucy screamed, "Is anybody there?"
 - D. Lucy screamed "Is anybody there?"
 4. Which of these sentences contains a **preposition**?
 - A. Christopher meandered down the path.
 - B. Harry skipped really quickly.
 - C. Elsie hurriedly ran for the bus.
 - D. Jess and Kate raced.
 5. What is the **subject** of the sentence below?

In the garden, the dog was chasing its tail, watched by the cat.

 - A. Garden
 - B. Dog
 - C. Tail
 - D. Cat
 6. Which of these sentences starts with a **subordinate clause**?
 - A. Ahmed, who was good at Science, wanted to be a dentist.
 - B. Ahmed liked all his science lessons, especially Chemistry.
 - C. Even though dentistry is difficult, he was determined to do it.
 - D. He wanted a chemistry set because he enjoyed carrying out experiments.

Section 2 - Reading

- Candidates should aim to spend **about 15 minutes** on this section
- Read the **whole passage carefully** and then answer the questions that follow by writing the letter A, B, C or D in the appropriate **answer boxes**
- For question 7, write out your answers in the appropriate answer box
- Each question is worth **1 mark**, except question 7 which is worth **9 marks**

From *The Sword in the Stone* by T.H. White

1 The Wart followed after, since this was the simplest thing to do, and offered to carry the bucket (which seemed to please Merlyn, who gave it to him) and waited while he counted the keys—while he muttered and mislaid them and dropped them in the grass. Finally, when they had got their way into the black and white
5 home with as much trouble as if they were burgling it, he climbed up the ladder after his host and found himself in the upstairs room.

It was the most marvellous room that he had ever been in.

There was a real corkindrill hanging from the rafters, very life-like and horrible with glass eyes and scaly tail stretched out behind it. When its master came into
10 the room it winked one eye in salutation, although it was stuffed. There were thousands of brown books in leather bindings, some chained to the book-shelves and others propped against each other as if they had had too much spirits to drink and did not really trust themselves. These gave out a smell of must and solid brownness which was most secure. Then there were stuffed birds,
15 popinjays, and maggot-pies and kingfishers, and peacocks with all their feathers but two, and tiny birds like beetles, and a reputed phoenix which smelt of incense and cinnamon. It could not have been a real phoenix, because there is only one of these at a time. Over by the mantelpiece there was a fox's mask, a forty-pound salmon, and a very life-like basilisk. There were several boars' tusks and the
20 claws of tigers and lizards mounted in symmetrical patterns, six live grass snakes in a kind of aquarium, some nests of the solitary wasp nicely set up in a glass cylinder, an ordinary beehive whose inhabitants went in and out of the window, two young hedgehogs in cotton wool, a pair of badgers which immediately began to cry Yik-Yik-Yik-Yik in loud voices as soon as the magician appeared, twenty
25 boxes which contained stick caterpillars – feeding on the appropriate leaves— a guncase with all sorts of weapons which would not be invented for half a thousand years, a chest of drawers full of salmon flies which had been tied by Merlyn himself, a bunch of turkey feathers and goose-quills for making pens, twelve pairs of boots, three dozen rabbit wires, twelve corkscrews, some ants'
30 nests between two glass plates, ink-bottles of every possible colour from red to violet, darning needles, a gold medal for being the best scholar at Winchester, four or five recorders, a nest of field mice all alive-o, two skulls, two paint-boxes (one oil, one water-colour), three globes of the known geographical world, a few fossils, and the stuffed head of a camel-leopard.

7. From the first paragraph, write down (on your answer sheet) an example of:
- A. A verb
 - B. An adverb
 - C. A simile
 - D. A proper noun
 - E. 5 *different* conjunctions
8. In line 7 the room is described as the 'most marvellous' that the Wart had ever been in. What do you think this means?
- A. That the Wart has had very limited life experiences
 - B. That the narrator exaggerates the experience to astound the readers
 - C. That the room is superior to any other imaginable by the Wart
 - D. That the room inspires more wonder and awe in the Wart than he has known before
9. In lines 8-9 the Wart observes a 'corkindrill'. What do you think a corkindrill might be, based on the description?
- A. A cockerel
 - B. A crocodile
 - C. A fish
 - D. A newt
10. The corkindrill 'winked one eye in salutation' as Merlyn enters. What does this gesture reveal?
- A. That the corkindrill is showing politeness and respect towards Merlyn
 - B. That the corkindrill is friendly towards Merlyn
 - C. That the corkindrill is trying to give Merlyn a message
 - D. That the Wart is seeing things
11. The books are described 'as if they had had too much spirits to drink' in lines 12-13. What do you think this tells us about the arrangement of the books?
- A. The books are neatly stacked in alphabetical order
 - B. The books have minds of their own and move around while Merlyn is out
 - C. The books are stacked in a disorderly and precarious manner
 - D. The books are wet and have been damp for some time
12. Which of these words could not be used to describe the room that the Wart enters?
- A. Unique
 - B. Diverse
 - C. Engaging
 - D. Unvarying

13. Merlyn has numerous animals mounted on his walls or hanging from the ceiling rafters. What does this reveal about his character?
- A. That Merlyn enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time, and his proud of his catches
 - B. That Merlyn likes to decorate his room in the style of a museum
 - C. That Merlyn is keen to observe, collect and understand the workings of the animal kingdom
 - D. That Merlyn is fond of studying birds
14. The badgers in lines 23-24 'began to cry' when Merlyn entered the room. Why do you think this is?
- A. Because the badgers are very sad creatures
 - B. Because Merlyn's entrance changes the atmosphere of the room
 - C. Because Merlyn's entrance disturbs the sleep of the badgers
 - D. Because the badgers are welcoming Merlyn
15. The gun-case in lines 26-27 contains weapons 'which would not be invented for half a thousand years'. What do you think this tells us?
- A. That Merlyn has travelled through time and space collecting artefacts
 - B. That Merlyn is inventing different types of weaponry
 - C. That Merlyn has a time-machine
 - D. That Merlyn is an inventor
16. The narrator sees a gold medal in line 31. Why has it been won?
- A. Athletic success
 - B. Academic success
 - C. Artistic success
 - D. Scientific success
17. Which of these descriptions most accurately presents your opinion of the room and its contents?
- A. The room contains scientific treasures stored for the promotion of learning
 - B. The room is arranged to enable interactive and methodical learning
 - C. The room's contents are both a study of life and alive in themselves
 - D. The room has little order or purpose

Section 3 – Writing

You are advised to spend about **20 minutes** on this section.
Write your answers on the lines provided on your answer sheet.

Marks will be given for:

- Accurate and varied use of sentences
- Wide and appropriate use of vocabulary
- Accurate spelling and grammar
- Use of descriptive devices, such as metaphor, simile etc.
- Accurate use of varied paragraphs

Either:

- A. Write a description of a mountainous area, as suggested by this picture:



Or:

- B. Write the opening of a story with the title 'Discovery'.

End of questions