



ALDERLEY EDGE  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

11+ Entrance Examination

## ENGLISH PAPER

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Write your candidate number in the box below:

CANDIDATE NUMBER

---

- There are **two sections** to the paper.
- **Section 1:** Reading. Answer **all** the questions. Spend about 45 minutes reading the passage and answering the questions which follow.
- **Section 2:** Writing. Choose **one** question. Spend 30 minutes planning and writing your answer.
- The number of marks for each question is shown at the end of each question. Use this as a guide for how much to write.

Marks:

Reading

Writing

Total

## SECTION 1: READING

**Spend about 45 minutes reading this passage and answering the questions which follow. Make sure you answer the questions in sentences.**

Mother sent me out early as usual to fetch back some limpets or whatever I could find. The storm was worse than ever, when someone saw the sail. The rain was coming in hail squalls, driving into my face so hard that I could scarcely open my eyes. One sail became four, white against the black storm clouds. The ship was  
5 beating her way past Seal Rock towards the Tearing Ledges, making no headway in the teeth of a gale. We all knew what was going to happen. We'd seen it before. A ship about to founder staggers before she falls. A huge wave broke over her stern and she did not come upright again. She lay on her side and wallowed in the waves.

10 The cry went up from all around. 'Wreck! Wreck!'

When we reached the boathouse they were already hauling the gig down into the surf. Time and again, the crew leapt in and we pushed them out, up to our waists in the icy sea, and time and again they were driven back by the waves. In the end she  
15 was caught broadside on, capsized and everyone was upturned into the sea.

After that everyone wanted to give up, until the schoolteacher came running along the beach towards us, breathless.

20 'There's men in the sea,' she said. 'I saw them from Samson Hill. The ship's gone on the rocks.'

'You heard her!' cried the chief. 'Well, what are we waiting for?'

They lashed the oars across, and at a word from the chief, lifted the gig up on to their shoulders. Mother was beside me now, taking my hand in hers, silent with anxiety. I  
25 stood and watched, yearning, aching to be carrying the gig, with the chief, with Father, with old man Jenkins and the others.

They staggered up the beach and set off across the Green towards Rushy Bay, all of us running alongside. When we reached the track up Samson Hill everyone made off

30 up the hill to watch from the top, everyone but me. I stayed with the crew. Mother  
tried to hold on to me, but I broke free.

Over the dunes they went, cursing and groaning under the weight of the gig, and I  
went with them. That was where Father went down with a cry, clutching at his ankle  
35 and rolling over in agony. He looked up, and shook his head.

took me by the shoulders and shook me. 'Come on!'

So I took up Father's oar and my share of the weight on my shoulder, and leaving  
Father behind on the dunes, we ran the gig down the beach and into the sea. We  
40 unlashd our oars, leapt in, and at once we were pulling hard for Samson. The waves  
hurled us up and down so violently that I thought the gig would break her back.

I just rowed and as I rowed I suddenly realised where I was, and what I was doing. I  
was out in the gig! I was rowing out to a wreck! I was doing what I had always most  
45 wanted to do all my life. At last, at last, at last!

No one spoke except the chief. He stood in the prow bellowing at us.

'Row, you beggars, row. Row like hell. There's folk in the water out there. Row your  
hearts out. Row, blast your eyes, row!'

50

And I rowed like I had never rowed before, fixing my eyes on the blade, pulling long  
and hard through the water, reaching far forward, bracing my feet and digging the  
oar again into the sea. The sea surged and churned around the gig. I became my oar,  
my oar became me. I was too busy to feel any fear, too cold to feel any pain.

55

It was no great distance across the narrow channel but the seas were seething. A  
witches' brew of wind and tide and current took us and tossed us about at will.  
Under us the gig groaned and cried, but she held together. A thunderous wave  
reared up above us, a great green wall of water and I thought we must go over.

60

The gig grounded suddenly. I had not expected it so soon. We were on Samson  
already. We hung over our oars like wet rags, drained of all strength.

## QUESTIONS

Answer the questions as fully as possible. Do not rush.

1 What has Laura (the narrator) been asked to do by her Mother?

---

(1 mark)

2 What is Laura finding it difficult to do because of the rain?

---

(1 mark)

3 Find two sentences which show the villagers have seen a wreck before.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

4 Which verb shows that it is difficult to get the gig into the water?

---

(1 mark)

5 What changes the villagers' minds about giving up?

---

(1 mark)

6 In lines 23-30, how does the narrator feel about being part of the gig crew? Tick **two** boxes.

eager		angry	
reluctant		determined	

(2 marks)

7 Find two quotations which support your answer.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

---

b) \_\_\_\_\_

---

(2 marks)

8 In lines 30-38, how do you know that it is difficult to move the gig?

Use **2 examples** from the passage to support your answer.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

(5 marks)

9 In lines 40-42, how does the writer **use language** to show Laura's feelings about being in the gig? Use **2 examples** from the passage in support. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

(5 marks)

10 “No one spoke except the chief. He stood in the prow bellowing at us.  
‘Row, you beggars, row. Row like hell. There’s folk in the water out there. Row your hearts out. Row, blast your eyes, row!’

What impression of the chief does the narrator create in these lines?  
You should **support** your answers with **evidence** from this passage.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

(5 marks)

11 What technique is used in the phrase: “the seas were seething”?

---

(1 mark)

12 What impression does this give of the sea?

---

---

(2 marks)

13 What technique is used in the phrase: “A witches’ brew of wind and tide and current took us and tossed us about at will”?

---

(1 mark)

14 What impression of the sea does this create?

---

---

(2 marks)

15 What technique is used in the phrase: “we hung over our oars like wet rags, drained of all strength”?

---

(1 mark)

16 What impression of the villagers does this create?

---

---

(2 marks)





**These next questions test your spelling, punctuation and grammar.**

18 There are **five mistakes** in the following passage. **Circle** the mistake.

I climed out and looked about me. I saw men staggering towards us, and one of them was running ahead of the others.

‘Billy?’ I said, taking his face in my hands to be sure, to be quite sure. ‘Is it you, Billy. Is it you?’

‘Thank God,’ he whispered.

I have to pinch myself still to believe it as I write it. Billy is back! Billy is safe! Billy is home! We hugged out their on White Island. We cried. We laughed.

On the way back to Bryher, with the wind and the waves behind us, with new strength in our arms, the gig flew over the sea we had rescued every man on board and Billy had come home.

(5 marks)

19 From the same passage, find an example of

a preposition \_\_\_\_\_

a personal pronoun \_\_\_\_\_

an interrogative \_\_\_\_\_

an adjective \_\_\_\_\_

(4 marks)

## SECTION 2: WRITING

Choose **one** of the following questions.

You will be assessed on:

- the content (ideas) of your writing
- the way you structure and paragraph your writing
- the accuracy of your spelling and punctuation

**EITHER**

Write a description of a storm.

**OR**

Write a speech to inform other pupils in Year 6 about an event you remember well.

**OR**

Write an article for a local newspaper about a dramatic rescue.

<p><b>Total:</b> <b>50 marks</b></p>
--





