THE CEDARS

SCHOOL

11+ Entrance Examination

ENGLISH

Specimen Paper

Time allowed: **1 hour**

This paper consist of a **reading** section and a **writing** section. You are advised to spend around 35 minutes on the reading section and the remainder on the writing.

NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

Section A: Reading

Spend about 35 minutes on this section

Read the extract below, which is taken from *A Christmas Carol* (1843) by Charles Dickens (1812-1870), and answer the questions that follow on the paper provided.

Having seen the face of his dead business partner, Jacob Marley, on his door-knocker, Ebenezer Scrooge attempts to dismiss increasingly frightening supernatural phenomena.

"Humbug!" said Scrooge; and walked across the room.

After several turns, he sat down again. As he threw his head back in the chair, his glance happened to rest upon a bell, a disused bell, that hung in the room, and communicated for some purpose now forgotten with a chamber in the highest story of the building. It was with great astonishment, and with a strange, inexplicable dread, that as he looked, he saw this bell begin to swing. It swung so softly in the outset that it scarcely made a sound; but soon it rang out loudly, and so did every bell in the house.

This might have lasted half a minute, or a minute, but it seemed an hour. The bells ceased as they had begun, together. They were succeeded by a clanking noise, deep down below; as if some person were dragging a heavy chain over the casks in the wine-merchant's cellar. Scrooge then remembered to have heard that ghosts in haunted houses were described as dragging chains.

The cellar-door flew open with a booming sound, and then he heard the noise much louder, on the floors below; then coming up the stairs; then coming straight towards his door.

"It's humbug still!" said Scrooge. "I won't believe it."

His colour changed though, when, without a pause, it came on through the heavy door, and passed into the room before his eyes. Upon its coming in, the dying flame leaped up, as though it cried "I know him! Marley's Ghost!" and fell again.

The same face: the very same. Marley in his pig-tail, usual waistcoat, tights, and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling, like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel. His body was transparent: so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the two buttons on his coat behind.

Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now.

No, nor did he believe it even now. Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him; though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes; and marked the very texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin, which wrapper he had not observed before: he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses.

"How now!" said Scrooge, caustic and cold as ever. "What do you want with me?"

"Much!"—Marley's voice, no doubt about it.

Questions

1. **Briefly** summarise the key events of this extract. (5)

2. Give **two** reasons why Scrooge is surprised when the bells begin to ring. (2)

3. Explain **one thing** we learn about Scrooge's character from this extract. Use **evidence from the text** to support your point, and explain it **in detail**. (3)

4. Dickens creates a mysterious and frightening atmosphere in this passage. Give **three examples** of how he does this, and explain them **in detail**. (10)

Total marks for Section A: 20

Section B: Writing

Spend about 25 minutes on this section.

Your response will be marked for the accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

"The best place to live is the city."

Write a magazine article, arguing **either** for **or** against this statement.

Total marks for Section B: 20

Total marks for paper: 40