



**THE NORTH LONDON INDEPENDENT GIRLS'
SCHOOLS' CONSORTIUM**

Group 1

YEAR 7

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

ENGLISH EXAMPLE ANSWERS

Friday 13 January 2017

Time allowed: 1 hour 20 minutes

First Name:

Surname:

PART A: READING (40 minutes)

1. Lines 2–6.

Select **four** words or short phrases that show that Cecily is very nervous.

- (i) cowered
- (ii) beneath her bed
- (iii) bit her lip
- (iv) heart bounced like a trout

4 marks

2. (a) Lines 10–11.

“Cecily had pictured Jeremy folded under his bed, his heart flipping and diving.”

What does Cecily imagine Jeremy is feeling according to this line?

Cecily imagines Jeremy is scared and fearful, just like she is.

1 mark

(b) Lines 11–13.

In your own words, explain why Cecily changes her mind about Jeremy.

Cecily changes her mind about Jeremy as she knows he is “too smart to hide under a bed”. She believes that her brother could easily find a place to hide that would “keep him secret all night” and therefore he probably would not be as scared as she had originally imagined.

3 marks

3. Lines 17–24.

How does the writer make Cecily’s experience at this point frightening? Find **three** examples and explain why they are frightening.

Example	Why it is frightening
(i) “it was abruptly too late to change her hiding-place for a better one”	The writer suggests that Cecily’s hiding-place isn’t the best and that she may be found by the scary intruder. It is also frightening as the writer tells us that there’s no time for her to hide anywhere else.
(ii) “The silvery goggles reflected the flame as a pair of burning pupils”	It appears as if the intruder has eyes of fire. This makes them seem dangerous and monstrous.
(iii) “At the sight of this monster, Cecily almost screamed. Almost.”	The intruder is compared to a monster through a metaphor. This suggests that they are dangerous and frightening. Repetition also makes this frightening as it shows how close Cecily comes to screaming and giving away her hiding-place.

6 marks

4. Lines 25–29.

- (a) ‘From beneath the bed Cecily watched, her heart denting the floor.’ What is suggested about Cecily’s feelings here?

This line suggests that Cecily is either terrified or, as we find out later, excited. Her heart is beating so fast and so hard, that it could have dented the floor through her chest. The writer uses exaggeration here to show Cecily’s fear/excitement; her heart is not actually denting the floor

2 marks

- (b) ‘He threw back its door with a conjuror’s flourish.’ What is suggested about the man here?

This line suggests that the unknown man is opening the door boldly and dramatically. The writer’s reference to a “conjuror” suggests to the reader that the man is putting on a show, perhaps to entertain or scare the children.

The man is not nervous or trying to keep hidden. Instead he is loudly and dramatically searching the house.

2 marks

5. Lines 32–41.

How does the writer make this part of the story so dramatic?

Discuss **three** techniques such as word choices, imagery, structure etc.

(i) The writer uses sound in this paragraph to create tension. It is sound that finally gives Cecily away when “she squeaked”. Once she is discovered, “Cecily yelled” repeatedly, forming a strong contrast with the silence and her quiet squeak beforehand. This creates tension and heightens the sense of danger in the extract when Cecily is eventually discovered.

(ii) The writer also uses personification to describe the candle - “The treacherous candle sent its rays on to the girl’s aghast face.” This is dramatic as it suggests that the candle willingly gave away her hiding place and is another enemy that Cecily will have to face in order to escape. The darkness protected her but the candle’s light gave her away.

(iii) The man is compared to a lion through a simile. This creates tension as it compares the man to a scary, violent and vicious animal.

6 marks

6. Lines 46–52.

In your own words, give **three** effects of the blackout in London.

(i) Windows were taped up to stop light escaping from inside houses.

(ii) Streetlights were all turned off meaning streets were dark.

(iii) Cars did not travel or move around at night.

3 marks

7. Lines 56–59

How does the writer present Jeremy’s attitude towards his sister in these lines? Find **two** words or phrases and explain what they reveal.

Example	What it reveals
(i) “Jeremy was standing victoriously at the top of the stairs”	Jeremy is competitive and proud to have not been found by his father. He is triumphant after beating his sister, who was found first.
(ii) “his only answer was to raise a haughty chin.”	This line suggests that Jeremy is arrogant in his victory. He looks down on his sister disdainfully and ignores her question in a rude manner.

4 marks

8. Look back over the **whole extract**. What do you learn about Cecily’s character? Find **three** pieces of evidence and explain what they reveal about Cecily.

Evidence	Explanation
(i) “Jeremy was too smart to hide under a bed ... Only Cecily was silly enough to hide under a bed.”	Cecily looks up to her brother and thinks he is more intelligent than she is. This also suggests that he is older than her.
(ii) “Nonetheless, she ceased writhing and hugged him extravagantly.”	Cecily loves her father and even when she is annoyed that he is not playing the game properly, she can’t help but hug him. This shows that she has a good relationship with her father. This is also shown by the fact that he is playing a game with her.
(iii) “What the blackout meant frightened her. Her entire world was hiding in darkness”	Cecily is old enough to understand the blackout and its effects. She knows the importance of staying in the darkness, both in her game and in real life.

6 marks

9. Give **three** words or phrases **from the passage** which tell you that this story is set during the Second World War.

- (i) Gas mask
- (ii) Black out
- (iii) Air raid

3 marks

Total marks for Reading Section: 40 marks

Please turn over the page for Part B: WRITING

PART B: WRITING (40 minutes)

There are two tasks in this section. You must attempt both of them. Spend 20 minutes on each. The quality of your writing is more important than the length. Aim to write about a page on each task on the lined paper provided.

1. The next day Cecily and her brother are taken to Paddington station to be evacuated from London to the countryside. Describe their train journey. Begin your description with the following lines:

The platform was packed. As the steam train sounded its whistle for departure, Cecily and Jeremy looked at each other. **20 marks**

2. “Playing games in childhood is just as important as reading books.”

Do you agree with this statement? Give your personal opinion, backing up your points with examples. **20 marks**

Total marks for Writing Section: 50 marks

1. The next day Cecily and her brother are taken to Paddington station to be evacuated from London to the countryside. Describe their train journey. Begin your description with the following lines:

The platform was packed. As the steam train sounded its whistle for departure, Cecily and Jeremy looked at each other. **20 marks**

The platform was packed. As the steam train sounded its whistle for departure, Cecily and Jeremy looked at each other. Jeremy's jaw was tense and his posture stiff. He wanted to cry but with a deep breath, he soon swallowed his fears. Cecily, on the other hand, was already bawling. Jeremy placed an arm around her gently, like a comforting blanket.

"Goodbye!" their father yelled out from the platform, waving frantically and smiling sadly. Cecily could just make out a single tear falling down his cheek. An entire river fell down her own face.

TOOT! With a final whistle, the train groaned to life and began reluctantly trudging out of the station. Both Cecily and Jeremy leant out of the carriage window and waved to their father. Slowly, he shrunk until was completely lost from their view. Cecily cuddled into the corner of the carriage and eventually fell asleep...

When she next awoke, she was in a luscious, green wonderland, the likes of which she had never seen before! The train rushed along the tracks past forests, fields and falls. The sky was crystal blue and the sun seemed to smile back at her as she glanced out of the big train windows, blinding her momentarily.

"Cecily look!" Jeremy called excitedly once he noticed she was awake; he was pointing out of the other window. Cecily spun round so fast her head nearly fell off. She gasped at what she saw... Beautiful beaches, wonderful waves and captivating cliffs. Cecily had never seen the sea before and her heart missed a beat as she stared at the endless water before her. The strong smell of salt water filled her nose.

The train began to slow and for the first time, Cecily was filled with something warm and conforming; hope.

"Maybe this won't be so bad after all," she said.

2. “Playing games in childhood is just as important as reading books.”

Do you agree with this statement? Give your personal opinion, backing up your points with examples. **20 marks**

Playing games is just as important as reading during childhood as playing can provide important life skills, some of which cannot be learnt through reading. However, both must be done in moderation.

Firstly, playing games is important for children as it allows them to socialise and make friends. While some may argue that reading is more important, this is not a social activity and must be done alone. A study by the department of education shows that social play increases a child's happiness by 75%. Surely everyone wants children to be happy?

Furthermore, ‘games’ is a wide category and therefore includes a lot of things such as board games, computer games, sports and more. Sports are just as important as reading as they ensure that children exercise and are healthy. Do you agree that everyone must exercise and therefore playing games is very important for children?

Board games can be important in teaching children life skills. Games such as monopoly teach children how to use money and scrabble can help improve a child’s vocabulary by 45% (if played once a week for a year).

On the other hand, reading is also important and beneficial for children. For starters, reading is a life skill every child will need and use throughout their life. Reading regularly improves reading and writing skills as well as a child’s vocabulary. However, Penguin Publishers recommend that children read for no more than one hour a day; anymore than this and children can easily be overloaded.

Overall, both playing games and reading are deeply beneficial for children. However, both must be done in moderation so that children get the benefits of both.