



**ST. NICHOLAS COLLEGE
RABAT MIDDLE SCHOOL
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS
FEBRUARY 2017**

**LEVEL
5-6-7**

YEAR 8

ENGLISH

TIME: 2 hours

Name: _____ Class: _____ Teacher: _____

Marks			
Oral Assessment	Listening Comprehension	Written Paper	Total

SECTION A: LANGUAGE

15 MARKS

A. Fill in with the correct form of the verb. The first one (0) has been done for you.

A fisherman (0) caught (catch) a Californian grey whale in his fishing net. Volunteers cut the net which was left behind for seven hours (1) _____ (get) the large mammal free. They did it very carefully so as (2) _____ (not hurt) it. They were sure that the whale (3) _____ (struggle) to breathe and could not eat because of the net. Volunteers could see they (4) _____ (race) against time to free the whale. Luckily, they did get it free. “All the staff (5) _____ (be) really happy at the end of the rescue because usually the whale (6) _____ (not make) and dies,” said Diana Friedman, a volunteer with the Pacific Marine Mammal Centre. At the moment, many water mammals (7) _____ (die) around the world because of people. Grey whales can live for over 50 years but people are killing them. About 22,000 whales (8) _____ (now live) in the wild. However, if whalers (9) _____ (not catch) them, their numbers (10) _____ (increase) in the future.

5 marks



B. Read this letter and fill in the blanks using the words in the box. The first one (0) has been done for you.

how	where	when	who	which	that	whose
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Dear Sheila,

(0) How are you? Hope you're well! In your last letter, you asked me to tell you about all the things I did during my summer holiday.

We went to Vancouver (1) _____ I have some old friends whom I haven't seen for about three years. My friend Tim came with me and we had a great time. We flew into Vancouver on Monday 24th, (2) _____ was also my birthday. The first thing we did was to visit the wonderful aquarium (3) _____ there are killer whales, seals, penguins and dolphins. We arrived in the afternoon (4) _____ all the animals are fed. It was really beautiful to see the dolphins jumping out of the water to get the fish (5) _____ they love to eat so much.

We visited a lovely seafood restaurant in the afternoon. The waiters, (6) _____ were all wearing fishermen's clothes, told us about the wonderful history of the restaurant (7) _____. name was The Jolly Whaler. It had opened in 1801. On Thursday, we spent some time out on the sea in a large boat (8) _____ we hired. I caught a very big fish. I felt very proud and happy! We left on Thursday evening after a mini-holiday (9) _____ helped me to relax a lot and now I have returned to work.

The next time (10) _____ you write to me, you must tell me about your last holiday.

Bye for now Sheila,

Ben



5 marks

C. Underline the most suitable word. The first one (0) has been done for you.

The first thing that my eyes fell on, on the morning of my sixteenth (0) (birthday, **wedding**, **party**) was a package beside my bed. I sat up quickly and ripped off (1) (**a**, **an**, **the**) beautiful wrapper. A strange noise came (2) (**at**, **from**, **in**) inside. I opened the lid. “Argh!” My (3) (**scream**, **surprise**, **mouth**) rang through the whole house, (4) (**it**, **I**, **he**) think. A small, green frog made (5) (**a**, **the**, **in**) giant leap to freedom and landed (6) (**on**, **into**, **inside**) the bed. As if on cue, (7) (**out**, **in**, **from**) rushed the family. Everyone was amused, (8) (**even**, **also**, **except**) me. I was furious. I knew (9) (**who**, **which**, **what**) was behind the trick and I (10) (**were**, **was**, **am**) going to get him. My younger brother, the mastermind, ran for his life when he realised that he had been found out.

5 marks

SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION

20 MARKS

Read the passage “Diving with Sharks” and then answer the following questions.

1. **State whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).** 4 marks []
 - a. Robert dived with sharks in America. _____
 - b. Jane enjoyed the diving experience. _____
 - c. They were given a lot of training before the dive. _____
 - d. Robert was happy to feed the sharks. _____

2. **Choose the best answer to complete the sentences.** 4 marks []
 - a. **Robert goes shark diving because he ...**
 - i. loves dangerous sports.
 - ii. wins a prize in a competition.
 - iii. is a diving instructor.

 - b. **Jane Brambles is ...**
 - i. a tourist who joined the diving team.
 - ii. a disc jockey.
 - iii. Robert’s friend and diving instructor.

c. The crew attract the sharks when ...

- i. they collect the bait.
- ii. the divers pick the bait.
- iii. they begin to drop the bait.

d. Jane and Robert dive in ...

- i. when their diving instructor tells them.
- ii. after staying two hours on the boat.
- iii. when they saw several sharks circling the boat.

3. Fill in the blanks using information from the text.

3 marks []

The divers dived _____ deep into the water and every dive costs _____.

However, scientists are afraid that one day there will be _____.

4. Find two details about Robert in paragraph 1.

2 marks []

a. _____

b. _____

5. What kind of protection do the divers have against the sharks?

1 mark []

6. Find expressions in the passage which mean:

2 marks []

a. hold on tightly (paragraph 3) _____

b. unable to move because of fear (par. 3) _____

7. What do these numbers refer to? The first one (0) has been done for you.

4 marks []

0. 2	The number of hours the sharks kept circling the boat.
1. 40	
2. 5	
3. 15	
4. 1,000	

SECTION C: LITERATURE**20 MARKS****Part I: Unprepared Text – Poetry****Read the poem and answer all the questions that follow.****10 marks****Wasp Poem**
by Verity Bargate

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Today I drowned a wasp that I
Found floating in my wine.
Its life no longer is its own,
But neither is it mine. | I didn't feel a pang ¹ at all
10 I didn't change my mind,
I didn't even, really, feel
That this was cruel, unkind. |
| 5 With cool precision turned by hate
I drowned it in the sink-
It struggled in the water
But I didn't stop to think. | I may regret ² the sunshine,
The pollen and the jam,
15 But I'll understand you're drowning me
Because I'm what I am. |

pang¹ means “a sudden painful feeling” (line 9)
regret² means “to feel sorry” (line 13)



1. Mark (✓) the following statements **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

2 marks []

- a. The poet is a small girl.
- b. The poet drowns a wasp in the toilet.
- c. The poet is feeling sorry for the wasp.
- d. The poet hates wasps.

TRUE	FALSE

2. The words ‘**found floating**’ (line 2) start with the same /f/ sound. In poetry this is called:
- a. simile
 - b. personification
 - c. metaphor
 - d. alliteration
- 2 marks []
3. The words ‘**mine**’ and ‘**wine**’ are an example of:
- a. adjectives
 - b. similes
 - c. short words
 - d. rhyming words
- 2 marks []

4. Give the rhyming scheme of the first four lines of the poem. 2 marks []
-

5. The phrase '**I didn't**' is repeated many times. This shows that the poet is : 2 marks []
- a. upset and confused.
 - b. wondering why she didn't feel guilty.
 - c. not sure why she killed the wasp.

Part II: Prose- Unprepared Text **10 marks**

Read the following passage and answer all questions that follow.

He sat a long time with his eyes fixed upon the open gate, where a little light seemed to fall from the stars or from the horizon, who knows. He was sitting on a log in a dark corner with the gun across his knees. The pine-trees snapped. Once a chicken fell off its perch in the barn with a loud cawk and cackle and confusion that startled him, and he stood up, watching with all his eyes, thinking it might be a rat. But he felt it was nothing. So he sat down again with the gun on his knees and his hands tucked in to keep them warm.

And then - a shadow. A sliding shadow in the gateway. He concentrated his eyes onto a concentrated spark, and saw the shadow of the fox, the fox creeping on his belly through the gate. There he went, on his belly, like a snake. The boy smiled to himself and brought the gun to his shoulder. He knew quite well what would happen.



(adapted from '**The Fox**' by D.H. Lawrence)

1. **Mark (✓) the following statements TRUE or FALSE.** 2 marks []

- a. With his eyes fixed means very attentive.
- b. The boy is guarding the gateway of the farm.
- c. The fox is compared to a chicken.
- d. 'like a snake' is a clear example of a simile.

TRUE	FALSE

2. Underline the correct answer. 4 marks []
- This passage is written in the (**first, second, third**) person because the writer uses (**I, he, they**) most of the time.
 - The time of day is (**morning, mid- afternoon, dusk to night time**).
 - The boy is (**very tired, expecting to see a fox, expecting to see an owl**).
 - ‘cawk and cackle’ (line 4) is an example of (**a metaphor, a simile, an onomatopoeia**).
3. Find **one** short phrase in the passage that describes the shadow of the fox **AND one** that describes the way the fox moves. 2 marks []
- a. _____ b. _____
4. What was the boy going to do to the fox? 2 marks []
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SECTION D: COMPOSITION

25 MARKS

Write between 100 and 150 words on **ONE** of the following.

- Write a **story** for your school magazine entitled “The hardest thing I have ever done.”
- Write a **description** of ONE of the places you will never forget. (*The following words can help you: beautiful, big, noisy, quiet, busy, welcoming, clean, modern*)
- Write an **email** to your aunt in England to thank her for the wonderful holiday you spent with her and her family in their home.

Your aunt’s email address is: auntycarrie@gmail.com and your email is sam.agius@hotmail.com. Fill in the grid below with the correct information and continue writing the email in the space provided.

(*You can write about: the places you visited, the good company you had, the food you ate, the comfortable home they have*)

To:	
From:	
Subject:	

Title No: