



Wellingborough
School

Founded 1595

SAMPLE PAPER

ENGLISH

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION 16+

Candidate Number:

Time:

- 2 hours

Instructions to Candidates:

- Answer Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- You should spend approximately one hour on Section A and one hour on Section B.
- Both questions carry equal marks.

Information for Candidates:

- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. Quality of language will be assessed.

SECTION A

The following passage is an extract from H H Munro's account of wildlife in and around the trenches on the Western Front during WW1, 1916.

Write about the ways in which Munro uses language and imagery to convey his thoughts about the wildlife in the context of the war experience.

In your answer you might comment on vocabulary, grammar, figurative language, structure and any other linguistic features you think are relevant.

Birds on the Western Front, 1916

1 Considering the enormous economic dislocation which the war operations have caused in the regions
where the campaign is raging, there seems to be very little corresponding disturbance in the bird life of
the same districts. Rats and mice have mobilized and swarmed into the fighting line, and there has been
a partial mobilization of owls, particularly barn owls, following in the wake of the mice, and making
5 laudable efforts to thin out their numbers. What success attends their hunting one cannot estimate;
there are always sufficient mice left over to populate one's dug-out and make a parade-ground and
race-course of one's face at night. In the matter of nesting accommodation the barn owls are well
provided for; most of the still intact barns in the war zone are requisitioned for billeting purposes, but
10 there is a wealth of ruined houses, whole streets and clusters of them, such as can hardly have been
available at any previous moment of the world's history since Nineveh and Babylon became humanly
desolate. Without human occupation and cultivation there can have been no corn, no refuse, and
consequently very few mice, and the owls of Nineveh cannot have enjoyed very good hunting; here in
15 Northern France the owls have desolation and mice at their disposal in unlimited quantities, and as
these birds breed in winter as well as in summer, there should be a goodly output of war owlets to cope
with the swarming generations of war mice.
Apart from the owls, one cannot notice that the campaign is making any marked difference in the bird
life of the countryside. The vast flocks of crows and ravens that one expected to find in the
neighbourhood of the fighting line are non-existent, which is perhaps rather a pity. The obvious
20 explanation is that the road and crash and fumes of high explosives have driven the crow tribe in panic
from the fighting area; like many obvious explanations, it is not a correct one. The crows of the locality
are not attracted to the battlefield, but they certainly are not scared away from it. The rook is normally
so gun-shy and nervous where noise is concerned that the sharp banging of a barn door or the report of
a toy pistol will sometimes set an entire rookery in commotion; out here I have seen him sedately busy
25 among the refuse heaps of a battered village, with shells bursting at no great distance, and the
impatient-sounding, snapping rattle of machine-guns going on all round him; for all the notice that he
took he might have been in some peaceful English meadow on a sleepy Sunday afternoon. Whatever
else German frightfulness may have done, it has not frightened the rook of North-Eastern France; it has
made his nerves steadier than they have ever been before, and future generations of small boys,
30 employed in scaring rooks away from the sown crops in the region, will have to invent something in the
way of super-frightfulness to achieve their purpose. Crows and magpies are nesting well within the
shell-swept area, and over a small beech copse I once saw a pair of crows engaged in hot combat with a
pair of sparrow-hawks, while considerably higher in the sky, but almost directly above them, two Allied
battle planes were engaging an equal number of enemy aircraft.

SECTION B

ANSWER ONE QUESTION ONLY

1. Entertain/Describe

Write a description of a place/location that was once very busy but has been unused or deserted for a considerable time.

- Use formal Standard English and whatever descriptive/linguistic techniques you think may be effective.
- Write approximately 750 words.

2. Persuasion

Consider a charitable cause which you think deserves the support of lottery funding. It could be of local or national interest. Write a speech for the National Lottery Grants awarding body, in which you persuade them of the merits of your chosen cause.

- Write approximately 750 words, using formal Standard English.
- Use whatever persuasive techniques you think may be appropriate.

3. Information

A group of exchange students is coming on a three week-long visit from the Far East as part of a touring theatre group. They will be staying with host families in the East Midlands while they are here. Write a letter for all of them, informing them of what they can expect from British lifestyles and culture.

- Remember that your purpose is to inform not to describe
- Write approximately 750 words, using formal Standard English.

4. Instruction/Advice

If the voting age in the UK were to be lowered to 16, your local MP would have to find ways of winning the votes of you and many of your peers. Write a letter to her/him, advising on what political issues concern the young voters and how their support can be won.

- Remember that your purpose is to **advise** and that you are being assessed on your use of Standard English.
- Set your letter out in what you consider to be an appropriate format.
- Write approximately 750 words.