



Devonport
High School
For Boys

11+ Familiarisation Paper

2021

English Test

Time Allowed: One Hour

Section A

Read the extract and then answer the 20 multiple-choice questions that follow.

Circle the letter of the answer that you think is correct.

(30 minutes)

Section B

Choose one of the writing tasks. Plan and write in response to the task that you have chosen. (30 minutes)

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Section A: Spend 30 minutes on this section (20 marks)

Read the extract below and then answer the multiple-choice questions that follow:

'The Sign of Four' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

In this part of the story Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are investigating the scene of a crime in the roof of a building. 'Rafters' are wooden beams, 'garret' is another word for attic and 'lath-and-plaster' is how the ceiling was plastered over.

"He came through the hole in the roof," I cried.

"Of course he did. He must have done so. If you will have the kindness to hold the lamp for me, we shall now extend our researches to the room above,—the secret room in which the treasure was found."

He mounted the steps, and, seizing a rafter with either hand, he swung himself up into the garret. Then, lying on his face, he reached down for the lamp and held it while I followed him.

The chamber in which we found ourselves was about ten feet one way and six the other. The floor was formed by the rafters, with thin lath-and-plaster between, so that in walking one had to step from beam to beam. The roof ran up to an apex, and was evidently the inner shell of the true roof of the house. There was no furniture of any sort, and the accumulated dust of years lay thick upon the floor.

"Here you are, you see," said Sherlock Holmes, putting his hand against the sloping wall. "This is a trap-door which leads out on to the roof. I can press it back, and here is the roof itself, sloping at a gentle angle. This, then, is the way by which Number One entered. Let us see if we can find any other traces of his individuality."

He held down the lamp to the floor, and as he did so I saw for the second time that night a startled, surprised look come over his face. For myself, as I followed his gaze my skin was cold under my clothes. The floor was covered thickly with the prints of a naked foot,—clear, well defined, perfectly formed, but scarce half the size of those of an ordinary man.

"Holmes," I said, in a whisper, "a child has done the horrid thing."

He had recovered his self-possession in an instant. "I was staggered for the moment," he said, "but the thing is quite natural. My memory failed me, or I should have been able to foretell it. There is nothing more to be learned here. Let us go down."

"What is your theory, then, as to those footmarks?" I asked, eagerly, when we had regained the lower room once more.

"My dear Watson, try a little analysis yourself," said he, with a touch of impatience. "You know my methods. Apply them, and it will be instructive to compare results."

"I cannot conceive anything which will cover the facts," I answered.

"It will be clear enough to you soon," he said, in an off-hand way. "I think that there is nothing else of importance here, but I will look." He whipped out his lens and a tape

measure, and hurried about the room on his knees, measuring, comparing, examining, with his long thin nose only a few inches from the planks, and his beady eyes gleaming and deep-set like those of a bird. So swift, silent, and furtive were his movements, like those of a trained blood-hound picking out a scent, that I could not but think what a terrible criminal he would have made had he turned his energy and sagacity against the law, instead of exerting them in its defence. As he hunted about, he kept muttering to himself, and finally he broke out into a loud crow of delight.

Circle the letter of the correct answer:

1. How did the criminal get into the attic?
 - A. Through a hole in the wall
 - B. Through a trap door in the roof
 - C. From the attic next door
 - D. Through a window

2. Take another look at this quotation: "he swung himself up into the garret". What is the effect of describing Sherlock Holmes in this way?

The description suggests:

 - A. That he is not very good at climbing
 - B. That he is getting old and stiff
 - C. That he is quick and flexible
 - D. That he was nervous and wanted to get it over with

3. Where was the treasure found?
 - A. On the ground floor
 - B. In a secret room in the attic
 - C. On the roof
 - D. In a bedroom on the first floor

4. Which words describe Sherlock Holmes' reaction when he sees the footprints for the first time?
 - A. He is shocked and astonished
 - B. He is worried and nervous
 - C. He is amused and reassured
 - D. He is pleased and excited

5. Who is Number One?
- A. Sherlock Holmes
 - B. Dr Watson
 - C. The owner of the house
 - D. The criminal
6. Why does Dr Watson think Sherlock Holmes is like a bird?
- A. Because he follows his nose as if it were a beak
 - B. Because he flaps about
 - C. Because he has beady eyes and makes a noise like a crow
 - D. Because squawks and never stays still for a long time
7. When Dr Watson says 'For myself, as I followed his gaze my skin was cold under my clothes' what does he mean?
- A. He means he wished he'd worn warmer clothes
 - B. He means he was horrified by what he saw
 - C. He means there was a cool breeze in the attic
 - D. He means he felt excited by their discovery
8. Which sequence shows the correct order of events?
- A. The detective team investigate the empty chamber. Holmes and Watson discover a trap door then some small footprints in the dust. Holmes does not think there is any more evidence but he continues to search. Sherlock Holmes goes up in to the attic, followed by Dr Watson.
 - B. Holmes does not think there is any more evidence but he continues to search. The detective team investigate the empty chamber. Dr Watson goes up in to the attic, followed by Sherlock Holmes. Holmes and Watson discover a trap door then some small footprints in the dust.
 - C. Sherlock Holmes goes up in to the attic, followed by Dr Watson. The detective team investigate the empty chamber. Holmes and Watson discover a trap door then some small footprints in the dust. Holmes does not think there is any more evidence but he continues to search.
 - D. Sherlock Holmes goes up in to the attic, followed by Dr Watson. Holmes does not think there is any more evidence but he continues to search. Holmes and Watson discover a trap door then some small footprints in the dust. The detective team investigate the empty chamber.

9. Which of the following words is the closest in meaning to 'furtive' in the quotation 'So swift, silent, and furtive were his movements, like those of a trained blood-hound picking out a scent'?

- A. Secretive
- B. Furious
- C. Noisy
- D. Inaccurate

10. What types of words are the following: measuring, comparing, examining?

- A. Noun
- B. Verb
- C. Adverb
- D. Adjective

Select the correct word to complete the following sentences:

11. As I waited in the attic, I was _____ excited yet nervous.
A. feel
B. feeling
C. feels
D. felt
12. Watson and Holmes know how to do _____ jobs well.
A. there
B. their
C. theyre
D. they're
13. The criminal did not _____ shoes.
A. were
B. we're
C. where
D. wear
14. Sherlock would not share his ideas _____ Watson had to work it out himself.
A. so
B. but
C. and
D. if
15. Sherlock Holmes was worried _____ memory had failed _____.
A. her/her
B. he/him
C. his/him
D. his/he

Circle the letter of the sentence that has incorrect punctuation:

16. Question mark

- A. Have you ever been to a theme park?
- B. Tell me what you had for dinner.
- C. I wonder if you have been to Cornwall?
- D. How do you feel about spiders?

17. Semi-colon

- A. My sister likes swimming competitions; I don't even have a swimsuit.
- B. My uncle; he likes barbeques.
- C. I have to help my dad cook tea tonight; I can't go out with my friends.
- D. When I'm doing a dance rehearsal, I need: music playing; a cool drink; my favourite costume.

18. Speech marks

- A. The boat's captain shouted, "All aboard!"
- B. "Be careful," said Sid. "There's a slope there."
- C. "I know what you're thinking," my nan declared.
- D. "What has happened to the scissors"? asked the assistant.

19. Apostrophe

- A. Check your car doesn't run out of fuel.
- B. It's a good idea to borrow your brother's boots.
- C. The toys' battery has run out.
- D. You'll know who's coming when you look at the list.

20. Commas

- A. Although it was late, she did not feel tired.
- B. The driver, who was running behind schedule, rang the doorbell urgently.
- C. You must remember, to comb your hair.
- D. I saw an accident on my way to school.

Section B: Spend 30 minutes on this section

Choose one of the tasks below and plan a piece of original writing based on that task. You must show your planning in the box below before writing an accurate response on the page opposite. Write a minimum of half a side of A4 and a maximum of one side of A4.

You have 30 minutes to plan, write and check your work for its accuracy. Leave time to check your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

1. Imagine you are a police detective and you were called to investigate some unusual footprints on a farm. Write a report which recounts the investigation.
2. Write a letter from Dr Watson to a friend of his in which you describe your colleague Sherlock Holmes and explain what it is like to work with him.
3. Write the opening of a new crime genre story. You should include a description of a suitable setting and briefly introduce the detective and their assistant.

Planning space

[illegible]