



Devonport
High School
For Boys

11+ Familiarisation Paper

2023

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)

Name	
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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:

This is an extract from 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. In this extract, the main character, Ebenezer Scrooge, is working in his counting house on Christmas Eve. He is visited by his nephew.

A counting house is an old-fashioned name for an office.

Once upon a time - of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve - old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house¹. It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal²: and he could hear the people in the court outside go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them. The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already -- it had not been light all day: and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by³, and was brewing on a large scale.

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank⁴, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter⁵, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"⁶

¹ 'Counting house' = Scrooge's office

² 'Withal' = in addition

³ 'lived hard by' = lived close by

⁴ 'Cell' / 'tank' = cold, small room

⁵ 'Comforter' = long, wide scarf

⁶ 'Humbug' = nonsense

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure."

"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."

Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug."

"Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew.

"What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"

"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.

"Nephew!" returned the uncle, sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."

1. What time of day is the extract set?
 - A. Morning
 - B. Afternoon
 - C. Lunchtime
 - D. Evening

2. What is the weather like in this extract?

- A. Cold and foggy
- B. Mild and raining
- C. Snowing and foggy
- D. Raining and cold

3. Why are people 'stamping' their feet outside Scrooge's office?

- A. They want to distract Scrooge
- B. They are angry with Scrooge's attitude
- C. They have cold feet and are trying to warm them up
- D. They are trying to get ice off their shoes

4. How does the clerk feel about Scrooge?

- A. He hates Scrooge
- B. He respects Scrooge
- C. He admires Scrooge
- D. He fears Scrooge

5. Why does Scrooge not hear his nephew approaching?

- A. The fog is muffling any sounds
- B. Scrooge is deaf
- C. Scrooge's nephew has deliberately made little noise
- D. Scrooge's nephew approached very quickly

6. Read again the description of Scrooge's nephew: 'he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled and his breath smoked again'.

What is the effect of describing Scrooge's nephew in this way?

- A. To show he is a likeable character
- B. To show he is out of breath from walking
- C. To show he has made an effort to look nice to visit Scrooge
- D. To show it is cold outside

7. Which of the following is NOT a word that Scrooge's nephew uses to describe Scrooge?

- A. Melancholy
- B. Dismal
- C. Rich
- D. Morose

8. Read again the quotation: 'Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said 'Bah!' again; and followed it up with 'Humbug'.

What literary technique is 'on the spur of the moment'?

- A. A simile
- B. A metaphor
- C. Personification
- D. An idiom

9. Which of the following words best describes Scrooge's nephew's personality in the extract?

- A. Jovial
- B. Jlttery
- C. Jaded
- D. Judicious

10. What type of words are the following: ruddy; dingy; handsome?

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

Select the correct word to complete the following sentences:

11. Scrooge and his nephew both think _____ opinion is correct.

- A. there
- B. their
- C. they're
- D. They're

12. Scrooge's office _____ been warmer.

- A. Can not
- B. Could of
- C. Cannot
- D. Could have

13. I got colder as the weather got _____.

- A. Worst
- B. Worser
- C. Worse
- D. Worsened

14. The city clocks were _____ the hour.

- A. Striking
- B. Stricking
- C. Stroking
- D. Strucking

15. Scrooge's nephew came to wish Scrooge 'Merry Christmas' _____ Scrooge did not return his good wishes.

- A. Because
- B. If
- C. But
- D. So

Circle the letter of the sentence that has an error or mistake:

16. Apostrophes

- A. The women's changing rooms were closed.
- B. The child's coat was missing.
- C. The mens' football team had won an important match.
- D. The cat's collar had his name on.

17. Semi - colon

- A. Mark finished all his dinner; but Simon did not finish his.
- B. On the table was a lot of food: a pile of sandwiches; a massive bowl of crisps; a plate of tiny cakes; and a delicious fruit salad.
- C. I love reading; my sister prefers painting.
- D. I finished my homework; I found it quite challenging.

18. Speech marks

- A. "Good morning," said my teacher, "did you do anything special this weekend?"
- B. My teacher inquired, "Did you do anything nice this weekend?"
- C. "Did you have a nice weekend?" asked my teacher.
- D. "Hello everyone", said Mrs Jones, "did you have a nice weekend?"

19. Commas

- A. After the party, we found lots of lost property.
- B. There was a knock on the door, during dinner.
- C. My best friend, who lives next door to me, is very kind.
- D. If you clean your bedroom, I will take you to the park.

20. Question marks

- A. Tell me what your favourite type of book is.
- B. I wonder what your favourite book is?
- C. What is your favourite book?
- D. How do you feel about reading a different type of book?

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. Write the opening of a new mystery story. You should include a description of a suitable setting, introduce the main characters and start the action.
2. Write a newspaper article about a recent fundraising event for charity. You can choose to write about a real event or an imaginary one.

You do not need to write in columns.

3. Imagine that you are planning to take part in a charity fun run raising money for a charity of your choice. Write a letter to your friend to try and persuade them to take part in the fun run with you. Remember to give good reasons and use persuasive techniques.

Planning space





