

Name:

School:



Entrance Examination

English 1 (comprehension)

Tuesday 7th May 2019

Total time allowed: 1 hour

Please answer all questions on this answer paper. There are two sections, Prose and Poetry. Please read the text and then answer the questions that follow. Use the number of marks to guide the length of your responses.

Winchester College Entrance Examination: English. Paper 1.

Section A: Prose: Read the following extract from a novel, then answer the 7 questions that follow.

Mrs Dodd and her daughter, Julia, are watching the Oxford vs Cambridge University boat race from a point on the riverbank near the finish line. Some distance away, at the start line near a little island, the 8-man crews wait for the gun to go off. (The paragraphs have been numbered by the examiner to help you.)

1. There was a long uneasy suspense.
2. At last a puff of smoke issued from a pistol down at the island; two oars seemed to splash into the water from each white streak; and the runners* were moving; so were the threatening white streaks. Presently was heard a faint, continuous, distant murmur, and the streaks began to get larger, and larger, and larger; and the eight splashing oars looked like four instead of two.
3. Every head was now turned down the river. Groups hung craning over it like nodding bull-rushes.
4. Next the runners were swelled by the stragglers they picked up; so were their voices; and on came the splashing oars and roaring lungs.
5. Now the colours of the racing jerseys became distinct. The oarsmen's heads and bodies came swinging back like one, and the oars seemed to lash the water savagely, like a connected row of swords, and the spray squirted at each vicious stroke. The boats leaped and darted side by side, and, looking at them from in front, Julia could not say which was ahead. On they came nearer and nearer, with hundreds of voices vociferating: "Go for it, Cambridge!" "Well pulled, Oxford!" "You are gaining! Hurrah!" "Well pulled!" "Hurrah!" "Oxford!" "Cambridge!" "Now is your time, speed it up!" "Oh, well pulled!" "Well pulled!" "Up, up! Lift it a bit!" "Cambridge!" "Oxford!" "Hurrah!"

6. At this Julia turned red and pale by turns. "O mamma!" said she, clasping her hands and colouring high, "Would it be very wrong if I was to *pray* for Oxford to win?"

7. Mrs. Dodd had a monitory** finger; it was on her left hand; she raised it; and that moment, as if she had given a signal, the boats, fore-shortened no longer, shot out to treble the length they had looked hitherto, and came broadside past our palpitating pair, the elastic rowers stretched like greyhounds in a chase, darting forward at each stroke so boldly they seemed flying out of the boats, and surging back as superbly, an eightfold human wave: their nostrils all open, the lips of some pale and glutinous, their white teeth all clenched grimly, their young eyes all glowing, their supple bodies swelling, their muscles writhing beneath their jerseys, and the sinews starting on each bare brown arm; their little shrill coxswains*** shouting imperiously at the young giants, and working to and fro with them, like jockeys at a finish; nine souls and bodies flung whole into each magnificent effort; water foaming and flying, crowd running, tumbling, and howling like mad; and Cambridge a boat's nose ahead.

8. They had scarcely passed our two spectators, when Oxford put on a furious spurt, and got fully even with the leading boat. There was a louder roar than ever from the bank. Cambridge spurted desperately in turn, and stole those few feet back; and so they went fighting every inch of water. Bang! A cannon on the bank sent its smoke over both competitors; it dispersed in a moment, and the boats were seen pulling slowly towards the bridge--Cambridge with four oars, Oxford with six, as if that gun had winged them both.

9. The race was over.

*spectators trying to run alongside the race

**intended as a warning

***a 'cox' is the smallest member of the team who sits facing the rowers, and steers the boat, and shouts encouragement.

Section A: Prose.

1 Find words or phrases to explain the meaning of the following words from paragraph 5:

a) distinct: (2 marks)

b) to lash:..... (2 marks)

c) vociferating: (2 marks)

2 Imagine that you are one of the spectators who shouted out in paragraph 5. What THREE things might you shout?

1:.....

2:.....

3:.....

(3 marks)

3 Which team is Julia supporting?

..... (2 marks)

4 What is Mrs Dodd warning Julia about, at the beginning of paragraph 7?

.....

.....

.....

..... (3 marks)

5a A simile is a comparison, intended for poetic effect, using the word 'like', or 'as'. The first one in this passage is in paragraph 3, where the author compares the spectators to 'nodding bulrushes.' Why is this a good comparison?

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(3 marks)

5b There are several similes in this passage as a whole. Find 2 more. For each, write them out, and suggest why the author was making that comparison.

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(3 marks)

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(3 marks)

6 What do you notice about paragraph 7 that makes this description of the race thrilling? You may quote from the paragraph if you wish, to explain your observations.

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(6 marks)

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7 Can you tell which team won the race? Explain your answer.

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(1 mark)

Total Marks:	(30)
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Section B: Poetry: Read this poem, and **answer the 8 questions that follow.**

'Play the Game' – Jessi Pope (1915)

Pope was a First World War poet, known for encouraging young men to fight for their country.

Twenty-Two stalwarts in stripes and shorts
Kicking a ball along,
Set in a square of leather-lunged sports
Twenty-two thousand strong,
Some of them shabby, some of them spruce,
Savagely clamorous all,
Hurling endearments, advice or abuse,
At the muscular boys on the ball.

Stark and stiff 'neath a stranger's sky
A few hundred miles away,
War-worn, khaki-clad figures lie,
Their faces rigid and grey
Stagger and drop where the bullets swarm,
Where the shrapnel is bursting loud,
Die, to keep England safe and warm
For a vigorous football crowd!

Football's a sport, and a rare sport too,
Don't make it a source of shame.
To-day there are worthier things to do.
Englishmen, play the game!
A truce to the League, a truce to the Cup,
Get to work with a gun,
When our country's at war we must all back up
It's the only thing to be done!

Section B: Poetry

1 To what is Pope referring when she says, 'Englishmen, play the game!'

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(2 marks)

This poem is meant to sound energetic and enthusiastic. Describe one
2 thing Pope does to achieve this

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.....

(3 marks)

3 Explain, in your own words, what the following words mean in the
context of the poem

- (i) 'clamorous'
- (ii) 'endearments'
- (iii) 'rigid'
- (iv) 'stagger'
- (v) 'swarm'

(5 marks)

4 What atmosphere does Pope create in the first verse? Give evidence
from the poem.

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(4 marks)

5 Pope does tell us about some of the horrors of war, though. Give a line from the poem where she does this.

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(2 marks)

6 Pope rhymes the words 'swarm' and 'warm' and 'loud' and 'crowd' – why do you think she chooses these rhymes?

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(4 marks)

7 Pope makes it sound as if everyone is in this together. Give a line from the poem where she does this.

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(2 marks)

8 How does Pope try to make young men feel guilty if they do not go and fight for their country? (Give quotations from the poem in your answer.)

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(8 marks)

Total Marks:

(30)

