



Winchester College Entrance and Election Examination in English 2024

90 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Answer TWO questions:

EITHER Section A (Prose)

OR Section B (Poetry)

AND Section C (Extended Writing)

Total marks available: 70.

Each section is worth 30 marks. You will also be marked out of 10 for the quality of your spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Read all questions carefully.

You may make notes around the texts, and/or underline them.

You are advised to spend 45 minutes on each question.

SECTION A: PROSE

Choose EITHER this section OR Section B (Poetry)

The extract below is the opening of Brighton Rock (1938) by Graham Greene.

Read the extract carefully, and answer the questions which follow in full sentences.

Hale knew, before he had been in Brighton three hours, that they meant to murder him. With his inky fingers and his bitten nails, his manner cynical and nervous, anybody could tell he didn't belong - belong to the early summer sun, the cool Whitsun wind off the sea, the holiday crowd. They came in by train from Victoria every five minutes, rocked down Queen's Road standing on the tops of the little local trams, stepped off in bewildered multitudes into fresh and glittering air: the new silver paint sparkled on the piers, the cream houses ran away into the west like a pale Victorian water-colour; a race in miniature motors, a band playing, flower gardens in bloom below the front, an aeroplane advertising something for the health in pale vanishing clouds across the sky.

It had seemed quite easy to Hale to be lost in Brighton. Fifty thousand people besides himself were down for the day, and for quite a while he gave himself up to the good day, drinking gins and tonics wherever his programme allowed. For he had to stick closely to a programme: from ten till eleven Queen's Road and Castle Square, from eleven till twelve the Aquarium and Palace Pier, twelve till one the front between the Old Ship and West Pier, back for lunch between one and two in any restaurant he chose round the Castle Square, and after that he had to make his way all down the parade to the West Pier and then to the station by the Hove streets. These were the limits of his absurd and widely advertised sentry-go.

Advertised on every *Messenger* poster: 'Kolley Kibber in Brighton to-day.' In his pocket he had a packet of cards to distribute in hidden places along his route; those who found them would receive ten shillings from the *Messenger* but the big prize was reserved for whoever challenged Hale in the proper form of words and with a copy of the *Messenger* in his hand: 'You are Mr Kolley Kibber. I claim the *Daily Messenger* prize.'

This was Hale's job to do sentry-go, until a challenger released him, in every seaside town in turn: yesterday Southend, to-day Brighton, to-morrow -

He drank his gin and tonic hastily as a clock struck eleven and moved out of Castle Square. Kolley Kibber always played fair, always wore the same kind of hat as in the photograph the *Messenger* printed, was always on time. Yesterday in Southend he had been unchallenged: the paper liked to save its guineas occasionally, but not too often. It was his duty to-day to be spotted - and it was his inclination too. There were reasons why he didn't feel too safe in Brighton, even in a Whitsun crowd.

He leant against the rail near the Palace Pier and showed his face to the crowd as it uncoiled endlessly past him, like a twisted piece of wire, two by two, each with an air of sober and determined gaiety. They had stood all the way from Victoria in crowded carriages, they would have to wait in queues for lunch, at midnight half asleep they would rock back in

trains to the cramped streets and the closed pubs and the weary walk home. With immense labour and immense patience they extricated from the long day the grain of pleasure: this sun, this music, the rattle of the miniature cars, the ghost train diving between the grinning skeletons under the Aquarium promenade, the sticks of Brighton rock, the paper sailors' caps.

Nobody paid any attention to Hale; no one seemed to be carrying a Messenger, He deposited one of his cards carefully on the top of a little basket and moved on, with his bitten nails and his inky fingers, alone. He only felt his loneliness after his third gin ; until then he despised the crowd, but afterwards he felt his kinship. He had come out of the same streets, but he was condemned by his higher pay to pretend to want other things, and all the time the piers, the peepshows pulled at his heart. He wanted to get back - but all he could do was to carry his sneer along the front, the badge of loneliness. Somewhere out of sight a woman was singing, 'When I came up from Brighton by the train': a rich Guinness voice, a voice from a public bar. Hale turned into the private saloon and watched her big blown charms across two bars and through a glass partition.

Questions

1.

In which town is the passage set? [1]

2.

Give a quotation from the second sentence of the extract which indicates that Hale has been writing. [1]

3.

What do the following words mean in the context of their appearance in the extract? They have been underlined in the extract for you and they appear in the same order in the text:

(a) cynical [2]

(b) programme [2]

(c) inclination [2]

(d) extricated [2]

4.

In paragraph 1, Greene describes how "the cream houses ran away into the west like a pale Victorian water-colour."

What is the effect of describing the houses in this way? [3]

5.

Looking at paragraph 2, give another quotation that describes the town and explore its effect.

There is 1 mark awarded for your quotation and 1 for your explanation. [2]

6.

Look at the description of the crowd in paragraph 6.

How does the author convey a sense of the busyness and exhaustion in the crowd? Use evidence to support your answer. [5]

7.

Using quotations and analysing Greene's use of language for effect, discuss how the author creates a sense of Hale's experiences in the extract.

Try not to use quotations you have already used in your answer to question 6. [10]

SECTION B: POETRY

Choose EITHER this section OR Section A (Prose)

Read the poem carefully, and answer the questions which follow in full sentences.

To Mrs K____, On Her Sending Me an English Christmas Plum-Cake at Paris

What crowding thoughts around me wake,
What marvels in a Christmas-cake!
Ah say, what strange enchantment dwells
Enclosed within its odorous cells?
Is there no small magician bound
Encrusted in its snowy round?
For magic surely lurks in this,
A cake that tells of vanished bliss;
A cake that conjures up to view
The early scenes, when life was new;
When memory knew no sorrows past,
And hope believed in joys that last! —
Mysterious cake, whose folds contain
Life's calendar of bliss and pain;
That speaks of friends for ever fled,
And wakes the tears I love to shed.
Oft shall I breathe her cherished name
From whose fair hand the offering came:
For she recalls the artless smile
Of nymphs that deck my native isle;
Of beauty that we love to trace,
Allied with tender, modest grace;
Of those who, while abroad they roam,
Retain each charm that gladdens home,
And whose dear friendships can impart
A Christmas banquet for the heart!

Helen Maria Williams

Questions

1.

What do the following words mean in the context of their appearance in the poem? They have been underlined in the extract for you and they appear in the same order in the text:

- a) conjures
- b) native
- c) gladdens

[6]

2.

Explain what makes the speaker happy about this Christmas cake in lines 9-12. [3]

3.

“Mysterious cake, whose folds contain / Life’s calendar of bliss and pain”: in what sense does the cake contain “Life’s calendar of bliss and pain”? [3]

4.

Where is the speaker’s “native isle” and where does she “roam” “abroad”? [2]

5.

Given that the speaker is “abroad”, why do you think the gift of the Christmas cake is so meaningful for her? [2]

6.

Look at the final line of the poem: “A Christmas banquet for the heart!” Explain the impact of this image, considering its meaning in relation to the lines that lead up to it. [4]

7.

Considering the poem as a whole, analyse the language choices/devices and structural features which suggest that the speaker finds joy in this Christmas cake. [10]

SECTION C: EXTENDED WRITING

Answer ONE question from this section.

Either

1. "The calm before the storm rarely lasts long." Write a creative piece which begins with this sentence. Try to include the following:

- Surprising and exciting imagery;
- Writing that appeals to the senses;
- A rich variety of vocabulary and sentence forms.

[30]

OR

2. "Can humans ever truly be selfless?" Write a speech explaining your thoughts on this question. You should:

- Explain your opinion on the question;
- Explore the other side of the argument, even if only to disprove it;
- Use rhetorical strategies to make your perspective convincing.

[30]