



KENT COLLEGE
————— CANTERBURY —————

YEAR 7

ENGLISH ENTRANCE
PAPER

Specimen copy

COVER SHEET FOR ENGLISH ENTRANCE PAPER

The test is in 2 parts.

A COMPREHENSION of 40 minutes: comprising 5 minutes reading time and 35 minutes writing time. The students should not write anything during the reading time.

A COMPOSITION of 50 minutes: comprising 5 minutes planning, 40 minutes writing and 5 minutes checking. This piece of work should be quite lengthy.

ENTRANCE PAPER
ENGLISH COMPREHENSION

- **Read the extract from *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, then answer the following questions.**
- **Questions 1 to 9 should be answered in full sentences. Try to include as many details as you can.**
- **You have 5 minutes for reading the passage, followed by 35 minutes for answering the questions.**

- 1 Who was Ron standing next to?
- 2 How did Hermione answer Professor Sprout's first question? Find the phrase which tells you and explain carefully what it means.
- 3 Why did Hermione talk about the 'cry' of the plant?
- 4 How many Mandrakes were there and what colour were they?
- 5 Which earmuffs were the most unpopular and why?
- 6 Why was it very important that everyone wore earmuffs?
- 7 Why are the two words '*completely*' and '*on*' written in italics? (lines 21 and 23)
- 8 What would happen to the children if they did hear these Mandrakes?
- 9 Explain in your own words how to re-pot a Mandrake using the information in this extract. Write 3 to 4 sentences to answer this question.
- 10 Find the following words in the passage. What other words or short phrases could be used instead without changing the meaning?
 - a) fatal (line 12)
 - b) precisely (line 13)
 - c) shuffled (line 15)
 - d) scramble (line 20)
 - e) bawling (line 30)
 - f) plunged (line 31)
 - g) squirmed (line 46)
 - h) traipsed (line 49)

ENGLISH COMPREHENSION

You have 5 minutes to read the following passage from *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Professor Sprout is a teacher of magical gardening and here she tells the students how to repot a magic plant, the Mandrake.

The numbers in brackets are line references.

Professor Sprout was standing behind a trestle bench in the centre of the greenhouse. About twenty pairs of different coloured earmuffs were lying on the bench. When Harry had taken his place between Ron and Hermione, she said, 'We'll be re-potting Mandrakes today. Now, who can tell me the properties of the Mandrake?'

To nobody's surprise, Hermione's hand was first into the air. (5)

'Mandrake, or Mandragora, is a powerful restorative,' said Hermione, sounding as usual as though she had swallowed the text book. 'It is used to return people who have been transfigured or cursed to their original state.'

'Excellent. Ten points to Gryffindor,' said Professor Sprout. 'The Mandrake forms an essential part of most antidotes. It is also, however, dangerous. Who can tell me why?(10)

Hermione's hand narrowly missed Harry's glasses as it shot up again.

'The cry of the Mandrake is fatal to anyone who hears it,' she said promptly.

'Precisely. Take another ten points,' said Professor Sprout. 'Now, the Mandrakes we have here are still very young.'

She pointed to a row of deep trays as she spoke and everyone shuffled forward for a (15) better look. A hundred or so tufty little plants, purplish green in colour, were growing there in rows. They looked quite unremarkable to Harry, who didn't have the slightest idea what Hermione meant by the 'cry' of the Mandrake.

'Everyone take a pair of earmuffs,' said Professor Sprout.

There was a scramble as everyone tried to seize a pair that wasn't pink and fluffy. (20)

'When I tell you to put them on, make sure your ears are *completely* covered,' said Professor Sprout. 'When it is safe to remove them, I will give you the thumbs up. Right – earmuffs *on*.'

Harry snapped the earmuffs over his ears. They shut out sound completely. Professor Sprout put a pink fluffy pair over her own ears, rolled up the sleeves of her robes, (25) grasped one of the tufty plants, and pulled hard.

Harry let out a gasp of surprise that no one could hear.

Instead of roots, a small, muddy and extremely ugly baby popped out of the earth. The leaves were growing right out of his head. He had pale green, mottled skin, and was clearly bawling at the top of his lungs. (30)

Professor Sprout took a large plant pot from under the table and plunged the Mandrake into it, burying him in dark, damp compost until only the tufted leaves were visible. Professor Sprout dusted off her hands, gave them all the thumbs up and removed her own earmuffs.

‘As our Mandrakes are only seedlings, their cries won’t kill yet,’ she said calmly, as (35) though she’d just done nothing more exciting than water a begonia. ‘However, they *will* knock you out for several hours, and as I’m sure none of you want to miss your first day back, make sure your earmuffs are securely in place while you work. I will attract your attention when it is time to pack. Four to a tray – there is a large supply of pots here – compost in the sacks over there – and be careful of the Venomous (40) Tentacula, it’s teething.’

She gave a sharp slap to a spiky, dark red plant as she spoke, making it draw in the long feelers that had been inching sneakily over her shoulder.

Professor Sprout had made it look extremely easy, but it wasn’t. The Mandrakes didn’t like coming out of the earth, but didn’t seem to want to go back into it either. (45) They squirmed, kicked, flailed their sharp little fists and gnashed their teeth; Harry spent ten whole minutes trying to squash a particularly fat one into a pot.

By the end of the class, Harry, like everyone else, was sweaty, aching and covered in earth. They traipsed back to the castle for a quick wash and then the Gryffindors hurried off to Transfiguration. (50)

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Choose one of the following ideas to write about.

- Spend 5 minutes writing a plan for your work.
 - Rule off under the plan before you begin your composition.
 - You will have 40 minutes for your writing.
 - You will be given 5 minutes at the end for reading over and checking your work.
- 1 Harry did not find it easy to re-pot the Mandrakes. Think of a time when you found it difficult to do something. Write about the struggle and how you felt. Did you succeed or not?
 - 2 Imagine you are a zoo-keeper looking after magical animals. Write about your day's work.
 - 3 Do you have any relatives or friends who are 'a little unusual'? Write about 1 or 2 of them, describing how they behave and explaining what makes them seem unusual to others.
 - 4 'Trapped!' Write a story using this as your title.