



FOREST SCHOOL

ENGLISH ENTRANCE/SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

SAMPLE PAPER

Section A: Reading

PASSAGE

Reading time: 10 minutes

Instructions to Candidates

- You have **10 minutes** to read the passage.
- You may not start answering the questions during this time.
- You may write notes on the passage if you want to.

Section A: Reading

The pace of desert life is almost exactly the opposite of life I'm used to back home. Because of the ferocity of the climate, even the most simple activities must be taken slowly. There is no need to hurry and no benefit in doing so. 1

5

For the cameleers, the day follows a timeless, preordained pattern. Prayer, then breakfast cooked over a fire of sticks and branches, then the thick woollen blankets, under which they sleep at night (they don't have tents), are rolled up, secured with twine and laid beside each camel. The camels are brought to their knees and loaded up. Guide ropes are reinserted in mouths stained yellowy-green from cud-chewing, and they are brought to their feet. This provokes a tumult of braying and grunting. I wish I knew what they were saying, for it sounds important to them. Is it a passionate protest or is it merely an assertion of team spirit at the start of a new day? Is it 'how many more times do I have to tell you, I'm *not* a beast of burden, right', or is it 'Good morning everyone. Another scorcher by the looks of things'? 10 15

Ekawik doesn't speak to me at all. In fact, he doesn't seem the slightest bit interest in making friends with me, despite my patting of his flanks and complimentary remarks about the two silver good luck charms hanging from a chain around his neck. 20

He does, however, honk savagely when asked to carry me. This doesn't help, as I've never felt very comfortable on the back of an animal. Once perched on Ekawik's hump, I feel about as steady as I would on a surfboard. I've also been provided with a lethal, ceremonial saddle with high, spiky prongs and pommels back and front. I may look like some visiting king when I'm up there, but when it comes to dismounting, I find it impossible to get my leg over, and I have to be dragged from the saddle like someone being pulled from a car wreck. Much giggling from the cameleers. 25 30

The rhythm of the journey is set by the camels. Normally, they would be on the move at four in the morning, walking for fourteen or fifteen hours a day with two breaks, at midday and late afternoon. Omar tells me that when he's on the road he only has three or four hours' sleep at night. 35

Ekawik and his friend are happiest when performing something steady, simple and repetitive, like walking or chewing the cud. They are superbly adapted to this climate and terrain. Long legs raise them clear of the hot sand, a layer of fat on their backs protects them from the blazing sun. Heat escapes from their big, reassuringly rounded flanks, so they appear not to sweat, and even in this frightening heat they can go for days without any water at all. 40

Izambar Mohammed, one of the nine-strong team of cameleers, is the *chanteur*, the one who sings and chants and makes up songs to pass the time as we go. He warns me about staying too close to the camels, especially their 45

rear ends. Using fluent mime, he points out the ones that are the worst kickers. Somehow it doesn't surprise me that they include Ekawik.

SAMPLE

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FOREST SCHOOL

11+ ENGLISH ENTRANCE/SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

SAMPLE PAPER
Section A: Reading
Section B: Writing
ANSWER BOOKLET
1 hour

Name	
Candidate number	

Instructions to Candidates

- Write your full name and candidate number clearly on the front of this booklet
- You are advised to spend **35 minutes** on Section A and **25 minutes** on Section B
- You will have an additional 10 minutes to read the passage BEFORE the 1 hour starts
- You should answer all the questions

Section A - Mark out of 25: _____

Section B – Mark out of 25: _____

Total: _____

Marker: _____

Section A – Reading (25 marks)

Re-read the first paragraph of the passage (lines 1-4).

Marks

1a. What is the pace of life like in the desert? (1 mark)

1a. ____

1b. What is the pace of life like 'back home'? (1 mark)

1b. ____

2. The passage refers to '*the ferocity of the climate*'. What does the word *ferocity* tell the reader about the climate? (1 mark)

2. ____

Re-read the second paragraph of the passage (lines 6-17)

3. What are the cameleers? (1 mark)

3. ____

4. The passage says that '*the day follows a timeless, preordained pattern*'. What does the word *preordained* mean in this sentence? (1 mark)

4. ____

5. Write down two activities that the cameleers do before the camels are loaded up (2 marks)

Activity one:

5. ____

Activity two:

6. Find and write down the words or phrase that describe the noise that the camels make when they stand up. (1 mark)

6. ____

7. How does the reader know that the writer is interested in what the camels think? (1 mark)

7. ____

Re-read lines 19-31.

8. Who is Ekawik? (1 mark)

_____ 8. ____

9. Circle the word which **does not** describe Ekawik's attitude? (1 mark)

- Hostile
- Friendly
- Uncooperative
- Awkward

9. ____

10. Write down one thing that the writer does to try and make friends with the camel. (1 mark)

_____ 10. ____

11. Write down the simile which tells the reader that the narrative feels wobbly when sitting on the camel. (1 mark)

_____ 11. ____

12. How does the reader know that the saddle is not comfortable? (1 mark)

_____ 12. ____

13. When the writer finds it hard to get off the camels, the writer says, '*Much giggling from the cameleers*'. What does this phrase tell the reader about the attitude of the cameleers to the writer? (1 mark)

_____ 13. ____

Re-read lines 33-51

14. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false. (3 marks)

	True	False
The camels enjoy variety		
The camels' bodies are designed to cope well with the heat		
The camels have to have water every few hours in order to survive		

14. ____

15. What job does Izambar Mohammed have? (1 mark)

_____ 15. ____

16. Why do you think Izambar uses 'fluent mime' to communicate with the writer? (1 mark)

_____ 16. ____

17. Why do you think that the writer is '*not surprised*' that Ekawik is one of the worst kickers? (1 mark)

_____ 17. ____

The following questions are about the whole passage.

18. Which paragraph tells the reader about the routine of the camels' journey? (1 mark)

_____ 18. ____
Lines _____ to _____

19. How would you describe the attitude of the writer towards the experience of riding on camels in the desert? You should explain your answer using quotations from the text. (3 marks)

_____ 19. ____

Now go on to Section B

Section B – Writing (25 marks)

You must answer the question set. You should not write out an answer from memory. Answers which are written from memory do not get very high marks.

Some people believe that it is wrong to use animals for our entertainment (for example, riding camels when on holiday, seeing animals in a circus or in a zoo). Other people think that, provided the animals are treated well, then it is acceptable to use animals for entertainment.

Write the text for a speech you are going to make to an audience of Year 6 pupils and their teachers in which you argue either for or against animals being used for entertainment.

Space To Plan

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