

# HIGHGATE

**11+ test for entry: Example Paper D, with answers**

## ENGLISH

**Time allowed: 45 minutes**

- **Questions 1-4 (comprehension and analysis):** 30 minutes, including the time you take to read the passage
- **Question 5 (creative writing):** 15 minutes, including the time you take to check your answer to ensure accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Name           |  |
| Current school |  |

| Teacher use only | Qu. 1-4<br>(out of 15) | Qu. 5<br>(out of 10) | Qu. 5 SPAG<br>(out of 5) |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
|                  |                        |                      |                          |

**Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.**

*In this extract, a young boy called Tom is staying with his Aunt and Uncle. Unable to sleep, he explores their house at midnight and finds a strange door, on the other side of which he finds a garden.*

There is a time, between night and day, when landscapes sleep. Only the earliest riser sees that hour; or the all-night traveller, letting up the blind of his railway carriage window, will look out on a rushing landscape of stillness, in which trees and bushes and plants stand immobile and breathless in sleep - wrapped in sleep, as the traveller himself wrapped his body in his coat or his  
5 rug the night before.

This grey, still hour before morning was the time in which Tom walked into his garden. He had come down the stairs and along the hall to the garden door at midnight; but when he opened that door and stepped out into the garden, the time was much later. All night - moonlit or swathed in darkness - the garden had stayed awake; now, after that night long vigil, it had dozed  
10 off.

The green of the garden was greyed over with dew; indeed, all its colours were gone until the touch of sunrise. The air was still, and the tree shapes crouched down upon themselves. One bird spoke; and there was a movement when an awkward parcel of feathers dislodged itself from the tall fir tree at the corner of the lawn, seemed for a second to fall and then at once was swept up  
15 and along, outspread, on a wind that never blew, to another, farther tree: an owl. It wore the ruffled, dazed appearance of one who has been up all night.

Tom began to walk round the garden, on tiptoe. At first he took the outermost paths, gravelled and box edged<sup>1</sup>, intending to map for himself their farthest extent. Then he broke away impatiently on a cross path. It tunnelled through the gloom of yew trees arching overhead from  
20 one side, and hazel nut stubs from the other: ahead was a grey green triangle of light where the path must come out into the open again. Underfoot the earth was soft with the humus<sup>2</sup> of last year's rotted leaves. As he slipped along, like a ghost, Tom noticed, through gaps in the yew trees on his right, the flick of a lighter colour than the yew: dark - light - dark - light - dark ... The lighter colour, he realised, was the back of the house that he was glimpsing, and he must be passing  
25 behind the line of yew trees that faced it across the lawn.

1. Box edged – with a box hedge running around the boundary on each side where it meets the lawn
2. Humus – the part of soil that consists of dead plants that have begun to decay

Spend 30 minutes on Questions 1-4 (comprehension and analysis), including the time you take to read the passage.

***Re-read the opening paragraph (lines 1 to 5).***

1. Who does the writer say is awake at this time?  
(2 marks)

***Re-read the second paragraph (lines 6 to 10).***

2. Give a quotation that suggests the garden is quiet.  
(1 mark)

***Re-read the third paragraph (lines 11 to 16).***

3.
  - a. Give a quotation that shows you the bird looks ungraceful or moves ungracefully.
  - b. Explain *how* your quotation shows this. Consider the meaning of the words and their associations.  
(5 marks)

***Re-read the final paragraph (line 17 to the end).***

4. What does the writer want you to feel about the garden? Use quotations to explain your ideas and remember to consider the meanings of words and their associations. You could think about:
- Tom's reaction to the garden.
  - The atmosphere created by the description.

**(7 marks)**

**Spend 15 minutes on Question 5 (creative writing), including the time you take to check your answer to ensure accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.**

5. Write a short description of a person or animal waking up in a strange place. Do not describe yourself. Your description could be real or imaginary.

You should try to make it clear:

- Where your person or animal is
- What the place is like
- How the person or animal feels

You might like to:

- Use the senses
- Use a simile or a metaphor

**(10 marks for content, 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.)**

**End of Paper**