



11+ English Independent Style Test Paper 4

PART A

Please complete both sections of the paper.

Part A : Reading (45 minutes)

- Spend 5 minutes reading the passage and the questions in this booklet.
- You may mark the passage by underlining words and phrases.
- You should spend 40 minutes writing your answers in the answer booklet.
- Answer in full sentences.
- Use your best handwriting and take care with spelling and punctuation.



Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

The Reluctant Dragon

by Kenneth Grahame

A young boy has come across a poetry-loving dragon living in the nearby hills, and they quickly become friends. When the rest of the village find out about the dragon, they call upon St. George get rid of him.

1. The Boy found it an easy matter to set the mind of his parents at ease about his new friend. They had always left that branch to him, and they took his word without a murmur. The shepherd was formally introduced and many compliments and kind inquiries were exchanged. His wife, however, though expressing her willingness to do
5. anything she could,—to mend things, or set the cave to rights, or cook a little something when the dragon had been poring over sonnets and forgotten his meals, as male things will do,—could not be brought to recognise him formally. The fact that he was a dragon and ‘they didn’t know who he was’ seemed to count for everything with her. She made no objection, however, to her little son spending his evenings with the dragon quietly, so
10. long as he was home by nine o’clock: and many a pleasant night they had, sitting on the sward, while the dragon told stories of old, old times, when dragons were quite plentiful and the world was a livelier place than it is now, and life was full of thrills and jumps and surprises.

- What the Boy had feared, however, soon came to pass. The most modest and retiring
15. dragon in the world, if he’s as big as four cart-horses and covered with blue scales, cannot keep altogether out of the public view. And so in the village tavern of nights the fact that a real live dragon sat brooding in the cave on the Downs was ‘naturally a subject for talk. Though the villagers were extremely frightened, they were rather proud as well. It was a distinction to have a dragon of your own, and it was felt to be a feather
 20. in the cap of the village. Still, all were agreed that this sort of thing couldn’t be allowed to go on. The dreadful beast must be exterminated, the countryside must be freed from this pest, this terror, this destroying scourge. The fact that not even a hen-roost was the worse for the dragon’s arrival wasn’t allowed to have anything to do with it. He was a dragon, and he couldn’t deny it, and if he didn’t choose to behave as such that was his
 25. own lookout. But in spite of much valiant talk no hero was found willing to take sword and spear and free the suffering village and win deathless fame; and each night’s heated discussion always ended in nothing. Meanwhile the dragon, a happy Bohemian, lolled on the turf, enjoyed the sunsets, told antediluvian anecdotes to the Boy, and polished his old verses while meditating on fresh ones.



30. One day the Boy, on walking in to the village, found everything wearing a festal appearance which was not to be accounted for in the calendar. Carpets and gay-coloured stuffs were hung out of the windows, the church-bells clamoured noisily, the little street was flower-strewn, and the whole population jostled each other along either side of it, chattering, shoving, and ordering each other to stand back. The Boy saw
35. a friend of his own age in the crowd and hailed him.

‘What’s up?’ he cried. ‘Is it the players, or bears, or a circus, or what?’

‘It’s all right,’ his friend hailed back. ‘He’s a-coming.’

‘Who’s a-coming?’ demanded the Boy, thrusting into the throng.

- ‘Why, St George, of course,’ replied his friend. ‘He’s heard tell of our dragon, and he’s
40. comin’ on purpose to slay the deadly beast, and free us from his horrid yoke. Oh my! won’t there be a jolly fight!’

- Here was news indeed! The Boy felt that he ought to make quite sure for himself, and he wriggled himself in between the legs of his good-natured elders, abusing them all the time for their unmannerly habit of shoving. Once in the front rank, he breathlessly
45. awaited the arrival.

- Presently from the far-away end of the line came the sound of cheering. Next, the measured tramp of a great war-horse made his heart beat quicker, and then he found himself cheering with the rest, as, amidst welcoming shouts, shrill cries of women, uplifting of babies and waving of handkerchiefs, St George paced slowly up the street.
50. The Boy’s heart stood still and he breathed with sobs, the beauty and the grace of the hero were so far beyond anything he had yet seen. His fluted armour was inlaid with gold, his plumed helmet hung at his saddle-bow, and his thick fair hair framed a face gracious and gentle beyond expression till you caught the sternness in his eyes. He drew rein in front of the little inn, and the villagers crowded round with greetings and thanks
55. and voluble statements of their wrongs and grievances and oppressions. The Boy heard the grave gentle voice of the Saint, assuring them that all would be well now, and that he would stand by them and see them righted and free them from their foe; then he dismounted and passed through the doorway and the crowd poured in after him. But the Boy made off up the hill as fast as he could lay his legs to the ground.

60. ‘It’s all up, dragon!’ he shouted as soon as he was within sight of the beast. ‘He’s coming! He’s here now! You’ll have to pull yourself together and do something at last!’

The dragon was licking his scales and rubbing them with a bit of house-flannel the Boy’s mother had lent him, till he shone like a great turquoise.

- ‘Don’t be violent, Boy,’ he said without looking round. ‘Sit down and get your breath,
65. and try and remember that the noun governs the verb, and then perhaps you’ll be good enough to tell me who’s coming?’



PART A : READING (25 marks)

Spend 5 minutes reading the extract, then spend the remaining 40 minutes answering the following questions.

1. Read lines 1-8. (3)
How does the Boy's mother offer to help the dragon? Provide three points.
2. What was life like for dragons in the 'old, old times'? (2)
3. Explain the meaning of the following words, in the context of the story: (4)
 - (a) Plentiful (line 11)
 - (b) Brooding (line 17)
 - (c) Scourge (line 22)
 - (d) Valiant (line 25)
4. Read lines 21-22. (3)
 - (a) What literary device is used here?
 - (b) What effect does the use of this device create?
5. How do the villagers feel about the dragon? Support your answer with evidence from the text. (3)
6. In your own words, explain the meaning of the following phrase on lines 25-26: (2)
'But in spite of much valiant talk no hero was found willing to take sword and spear and free the suffering village and win deathless fame.'
7. What indicates to the Boy that something unusual is happening in the village? (3)
8. How does the writer represent St. George as a heroic figure? (4)



PART B

Please complete both sections of the paper.

Part B : Writing (40 minutes)

- You have 5 minutes reading and planning time.
- You should spend 40 minutes writing your answers.
- Remember to spend a few minutes writing a plan for each answer.
- Use your best handwriting and take care with spelling and punctuation.

If you have time, you may go back to Part A.



PART B : WRITING SECTION (25 marks)

Choose **two** of the following questions to answer.

Spend 5 minutes planning, then use the remaining 40 minutes to write your answers.

1. Write a story beginning with the sentence: 'I found a mysterious package lying by the door.'
2. Write a description of someone that you admire.
You may choose someone you actually know, or someone you have never met.
Describe them and explain why you admire them.
3. Write a story titled 'The Boating Trip'.
4. Each of us has a place in the world where we feel the happiest and the most at home.
Where would you say this is for you? Explain your answer clearly.
5. Some people dream of being famous. However, to some this does not appeal, as fame comes with many challenges. What is your opinion? Explain your ideas clearly.
6. Write about the picture below in any way you choose.



