



FOREST SCHOOL

13+ ENGLISH ENTRANCE and SCHOLARSHIP

PASSAGE

Section A: Reading

Read the following text. Answer the questions in the booklet provided.

Just Walking the Dog.

I don't enjoy chasing squirrels or rolling on my back in something unspeakable in the grass or standing up to my middle in a muddy pond; but I know those who do and am often to be found in their company.

- 5 For over half a century, since long before people started to say 'like' every second word, I have been walking dogs. Mostly I've taken a succession of dogs around Richmond Park, with excursions sometimes to Sheen or Wimbledon Common. These latter two are appropriate places for the more recalcitrant canines who have gained a reputation for somewhat boisterous behaviour. In the last eight years I've
10 extended my range to include some of the muddier, less salubrious parts of Epping Forest.

- I am, though I say it myself, 'known' in these spots; but it's sometimes the dogs that get the greetings. 'Good morning, Micky,' people will say, ignoring the panting
15 human close on the four hairy heels of a Norfolk Terrier. Or 'How's Polly today?' After five decades I still find this hard to comprehend.

- On the whole, however, dog-walkers are, in my experience, agreeable, benevolent souls who are happy to chat for a few minutes about this and that. It's safest, of
20 course, that neither this nor that should be politics or religion. The contemporary art and music scenes are probably to be avoided, too.

- One's best bet for an opening line is something with a canine focus. 'What a happy-looking dog!' is usually a winner. Or 'There's a lovely dog! Now what
25 sort is she?'

- Questions about the dog's attractive colour, attractive collar, or age are usually welcomed. Perhaps then the owner will volunteer some detail about the creature's habits or behaviour, dietary preferences or family background which will take things a step
30 further.

- Names can be a tricky issue. 'Stanley? Yes, he looks just like a Stanley' is likely to please; but it's quite hard to say, 'Dagenham? That's an excellent name!' and sound altogether convincing.
35 Better to try, 'Ah, because he was born there?' However, if the reply is, 'No, he's from Dorking,' you're wise to regroup and retreat in good order.

40 A famous poet said that the true test of one's ability to manage language was finding
an apt name for a puppy. With the passing of the years this challenge does not
appear to have got easier.

Names of 'breeds', though, are much more fun than they once were. Only this
morning my canine companion and I met a Jug in Epping Forest. Now, you probably
45 know that this is a cross between a Pug and a Jack Russell, just as a Cockerpoo is a
Cocker Spaniel-Poodle cross. Labradoodle is easy. But what about a Speagle or an
Almation? They're out there, I promise.

Recent years have also produced the novelty of the professional dog-walker, a very
50 different figure from the enthusiastic amateur such as myself. Like the personal
trainer, the professional dog-walker has become a familiar figure in parks and
woodland. Sometimes she or he even has a special flak-jacket or gilet with the job-
title in shamelessly large white letters.

55 As someone who exercises the dogs of his friends and asks no reward beyond a
decent walk, I catch myself being somewhat suspicious of these pros, especially if
they have a large pack with them.
Different breeds, ages, and even sizes, of dog require different sorts of exercise. And
the lowest common denominator level necessary to a large mixed group satisfies no
60 one.

Nor does the situation bring out the best in those being exercised. Thus, for example,
a normally reticent and law-abiding Poodle may find the peer pressure from her
new, wilder-spirited and more gregarious companions impossible to resist and show
65 herself capable of things that would appal her owners.
Crowds are not always good for us.

Furthermore, large groups of dogs under no very definite control can intimidate
young children and instil in them a fear which may last a lifetime, thus robbing them
70 of a potentially enriching source of companionship.

If you're sceptical of this last idea, you need only recall how enriched the human
species has been through its pact with the dog. And a sort of pact it truly was. Some
anthropologists studying human development claim that humans domesticated
75 dogs, or vice-versa, over thirty thousand years ago and point out the clear
advantages for any group of hunter-gatherers who had dogs on their team.

Dogs will warn of danger, help to fight off enemies and predators, can be taught to
hunt and sniff out food, and provide warmth on cold nights on the savanna. Their
80 behaviour, being more predictable than that of humans, can be a source of
confidence and consolation to those who hunt with them. When we feed them they
approve of us, and approval, within reasonable limits, is something we tend to thrive
on. All in all, this human-canine arrangement has been of great use to us as a
species.

85

Consequently, our proverbs and figures of speech are full of dogs, whose bite is less to be feared than their bark, who should, if lying asleep, be left that way, whose vigorous squabbles with cats are echoed by heavy rain, and every one of whom has his day, but can't, in his more advanced years, hope to master new tricks, and so on.

90

Even today the uncritical companionship of dogs is recommended as helping to draw out introverted children or simply cheer up the depressed.

While we clearly don't always delight in the same things as dogs - rolling in the grass, muddy ponds, scaring squirrels and so on - we can enjoy their enjoyment.

95

And any addition to our stock of innocent enjoyment is not to be lightly dismissed.



FOREST SCHOOL

13+ ENGLISH ENTRANCE and SCHOLARSHIP
1 hour

Question Paper & Answer Booklet

Candidate Number	
-----------------------------	--

Instructions to Candidates

- Write your candidate number clearly on the front of this booklet.
- This examination is divided into four questions, which relate to the reading passage.
- The questions will assess **both** your **reading** and the **quality of your writing**. You are reminded of the need to answer the question carefully and use a good quality of written English.
- You should answer all the questions in the spaces provided. If you need additional space, there is an extra page at the back of this booklet.

Total: /30

Questions

Marks

Read the passage in which the writer reflects on his experience of dog walking.

1. How does the writer capture the reader's attention in the opening paragraph? (2 marks)

1. ____

2. Explain in your own words what is meant by the following: (10 marks)

- a. *These latter two are appropriate places for the more recalcitrant canines who have gained a reputation for boisterous behaviour* (lines 7-8).

2.a ____

- b. *And the lowest common denominator level necessary to a large mixed group satisfies no one* (lines 58-60).

2.b ____

- c. *Their behaviour, being more predictable than that of humans, can be a source of confidence and consolation to those who hunt with them* (lines 79-81).

2.c. _____

3. Why does the writer feel that “names can be a tricky issue” (line 32)?
(3 marks)

3. _____

4. How does the writer feel about:

a. amateur dog walkers?

b. professional dog walkers?

You should refer closely to the passage in your answer and use quotations to support your ideas. (5 marks)

a.

Blank lined paper with a large, faint, diagonal watermark reading "SAMPLE" across the center.

b.

[illegible]

- [illegible]

6. Pick out four points that you are think are particularly effective or well chosen. What do they contribute to the argument? You might like to think about the writer's tone/choice of language/attitude to the reader. (10 marks)

Blank lined area for writing answers.

6. ____

End of questions

Additional space:

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal lines.