



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL  
THE CHALLENGE 2014

ENGLISH

Wednesday 30 April 2014

**You have TWO HOURS for this paper.**

- The paper is divided into Sections A, B and C. The amount of time you should spend on each is suggested as you progress through the paper.
- Write your answers in full sentences and, where necessary, in paragraphs.

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# A

**Spend about 20 minutes on this section.**

**Read the following passage from a modern American novel carefully, and then answer this question:**

**What makes this an intriguing opening to a novel? Explain your ideas by referring closely to details.**

In your answer you should consider:

- how the narrator describes the Gravel Pit;
- what we learn of the narrator;
- the description of the shooting.

The Gravel Pit was about a mile east of town, and the size of a small lake, and so deep that the boys under sixteen were forbidden by their parents to swim there. I knew it only by hearsay. It had no bottom, people said, and because I was very much interested in the idea that if you dug a hole straight down anywhere and kept on digging it would come out in China, I took this to be a literal statement of fact.

One winter morning shortly before daybreak, three men loading gravel there heard what sounded like a pistol shot. Or, they agreed, it could have been a car backfiring. Within a few seconds it had grown light. No one came to the pit through the field that lay alongside it, and they didn't see anyone walking on the road. The sound was not a car backfiring; a tenant farmer named Lloyd Wilson had just been shot and killed, and what they heard was the gun that killed him.

(10)

**Please turn over**

## B

Spend about 10 minutes reading the following passage and the questions which follow carefully:

- On one of these occasions, when they had both been perfectly quiet for a long time, and Mr Dombey only knew that the child was awake by occasionally glancing at his eye, where the bright fire was sparkling like a jewel, little Paul broke silence thus:
- 'Papa! what's money?'
- 5 The abrupt question had such immediate reference to the subject of Mr Dombey's thoughts, that Mr Dombey was quite disconcerted.
- 'What is money, Paul?' he answered. 'Money?'
- 'Yes,' said the child, laying his hands upon the elbows of his little chair, and turning the old face up towards Mr Dombey's; 'what is money?'
- 10 Mr Dombey was in a difficulty. He would have liked to give him some explanation involving the terms *circulating-medium, currency, depreciation of currency, paper, bullion, rates of exchange, value of precious metals in the market*, and so forth; but looking down at the little chair, and seeing what a long way down it was, he answered: 'Gold, and silver, and copper. Guineas, shillings, half-pence. You know what they are?'
- 15 'Oh yes, I know what they are,' said Paul. 'I don't mean that, Papa. I mean what's money after all?' Heaven and Earth, how old his face was as he turned it up again towards his father's!
- 'What is money after all!' said Mr Dombey, backing his chair a little, that he might the better gaze in sheer amazement at the presumptuous atom that propounded such an inquiry.
- 'I mean, Papa, what can it do?' returned Paul, folding his arms (they were hardly long enough to
- 20 fold), and looking at the fire, and up at him, and at the fire, and up at him again.
- Mr Dombey drew his chair back to its former place, and patted him on the head. 'You'll know better by-and-by, my man,' he said. 'Money, Paul, can do anything.' He took hold of the little hand, and beat it softly against one of his own, as he said so.
- But Paul got his hand free as soon as he could; and rubbing it gently to and fro on the elbow of
- 25 his chair, as if his wit were in the palm, and he were sharpening it—and looking at the fire again, as though the fire had been his adviser and prompter—repeated, after a short pause:
- 'Anything, Papa?'
- 'Yes. Anything—almost,' said Mr Dombey.
- 'Anything means everything, don't it, Papa?' asked his son: not observing, or possibly not
- 30 understanding, the qualification.
- 'It includes it: yes,' said Mr Dombey.
- 'Why didn't money save me my Mama?' returned the child. 'It isn't cruel, is it?'
- 'Cruel!' said Mr Dombey, settling his neckcloth, and seeming to resent the idea. 'No. A good thing can't be cruel.'
- 35 'If it's a good thing, and can do anything,' said the little fellow, thoughtfully, as he looked back at the fire, 'I wonder why it didn't save me my Mama.'
- He didn't ask the question of his father this time. Perhaps he had seen, with a child's quickness, that it had already made his father uncomfortable. But he repeated the thought aloud, as if it were quite an old one to him, and had troubled him very much; and sat with his chin resting on his hand, still
- 40 cogitating and looking for an explanation in the fire.

**Spend about half an hour answering these questions:**

1. a) What sort of atmosphere is created by the writer in the room where this dialogue takes place? (2)  
  
b) What does phrase the 'bright fire...sparkling like a jewel' in Paul's eye contribute to the atmosphere and our understanding of the boy? (3)
2. Why is Paul's face described as 'old' in lines 8 and 16? (2)
3. Why is Mr Dombey 'quite disconcerted' in line 6? (3)
4. When Mr Dombey is described as 'settling his neckcloth' in line 33, what do you think he is feeling, and why? (2)
5. What do we learn of Mr Dombey's attitude to and experience of money in the passage? Explain your ideas carefully and choose three brief quotations to support your answer. (8)
6. Why is Paul's question "*Why didn't money save me my Mama?*" such a difficult question for Dombey to answer? (4)
7. Now look carefully at the following quotation from a letter by the writer and artist, William Blake:

***"To the eyes of a miser a guinea is more beautiful than the sun, and a bag worn with the use of money has more beautiful proportions than a vine filled with grapes."***

Explain in your own words what you think William Blake means. Why does he choose to compare the miser's view of money to things from the natural world? (8)

**Now spend about 5 minutes planning your response to Question 8, and 20 minutes writing:**

8. **In view of what you've read so far, and drawing on your own opinions and thoughts about money, give your own answer to Paul's question: "*What is money after all?*"**

Try to structure your argument clearly and make sure you explain your ideas. (10)

**Please turn over**

# C

**Spend about 10 minutes reading the following passage and planning your response to the writing task which follows:**

Katagiri found a giant frog waiting for him in his apartment. It was powerfully built, standing over six feet tall on its hind legs. A skinny little man no more than five-foot-three, Katagiri was overwhelmed by the frog's imposing bulk.

"Call me 'Frog'," said the frog in a clear, strong voice.

Katagiri stood rooted in the doorway, unable to speak.

"Don't be afraid, I'm not here to hurt you. Just come in and close the door. Please."

Briefcase in his right hand, grocery bag with fresh vegetables and tinned salmon cradled in his left arm, Katagiri didn't dare move.

"Please Mr Katagiri, hurry and close the door, and take off your shoes."

The sound of his own name helped Katagiri snap out of it. He closed the door as ordered, set the grocery bag on the raised wooden floor, pinned the briefcase under one arm, and unlaced his shoes. Frog gestured for him to take a seat at the kitchen table, which he did.

"I must apologize, Mr Katagiri, for having barged in while you were out," Frog said. "I knew it would be a shock for you to find me here. But I had no choice. How about a cup of tea? I thought you would be coming home soon, so I boiled some water."

Katagiri still had his briefcase jammed under his arm. Somebody's playing a joke on me, he thought. Somebody's rigged himself up in this huge frog costume just to have fun with me. But he knew, as he watched Frog pour boiling water into the teapot, humming all the while, that these had to be the limbs and movements of a real frog. Frog set a cup of green tea in front of Katagiri, and poured another one for himself.

Sipping his tea, Frog asked, "Calming down?"

But still Katagiri could not speak.

"I know I should have made an appointment to visit you, Mr Katagiri. I am fully aware of proprieties. Anyone would be shocked to find a big frog waiting for him at home. But an urgent matter brings me here. Please forgive me."

**Continue the story. (10)**

**Spend about 20 minutes writing.**

**Now spend 5 minutes reviewing your paper.**

Marked out of 62. The final mark will be converted into a percentage.

**END OF PAPER**