



11+ Comprehension

Summary

Test Paper 4

Instructions:

1. The total time allowed is 40 minutes.
 - a) 10 minutes for reading
 - b) 30 minutes for answering the questions
2. There is a total of 35 marks available.
3. The available marks for each question are mentioned next to the question.
4. Write your answers in the space provided below each question.
5. For multiple-choice questions, write the correct option(s) from A to E in the box provided with the question.

Symbols used:



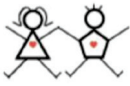
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Do not turn the page until told to do so.



Stop working and await instructions.



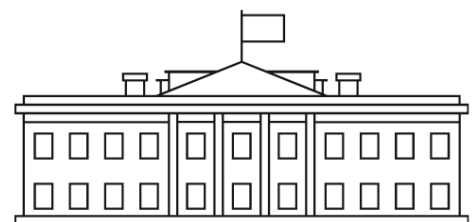
An extract from Barack Obama's autobiography, *A Promised Land*, in which he recounts his first term as President of the United States.

1 Our first spring in the White House arrived early. As the weather warmed, the South
2 Lawn became almost like a private park to explore. There were acres of lush grass ringed
3 by massive, shady oaks and elms and a tiny pond tucked behind the hedges, with the
4 handprints of Presidential children and grandchildren pressed into the paved pathway
5 that led to it. There were nooks and crannies for games of tag and hide-and-go-seek,
6 and there was even a bit of wildlife—not just squirrels and rabbits but a red-tailed hawk
7 and a slender, long-legged fox that occasionally got bold enough to wander down the
8 colonnade.

9 Cooped up as we'd been through the winter of 2009, we took full advantage of the new
10 back yard. We had a swing set installed for Sasha and Malia directly in front of the Oval
11 Office. Looking up from a late-afternoon meeting on this or that crisis, I might glimpse the
12 girls playing outside, their faces set in bliss as they soared high on the swings.

13 But, of all the pleasures that first year in the White House would deliver, none quite
14 compared to the mid-April arrival of Bo, a huggable, four-legged black bundle of fur, with
15 a snowy-white chest and front paws. Malia and Sasha, who'd been lobbying for a puppy
16 since before the campaign, squealed with delight upon seeing him for the first time,
17 letting him lick their ears and faces as the three of them rolled around on the floor.

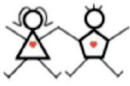
18 With Bo, I got what someone once described as the only reliable friend a politician can
19 have in Washington. He also gave me an added excuse to put off my evening paperwork
20 and join my family on meandering after-dinner walks around the South Lawn. It was
21 during those moments—with the light fading into streaks of purple and gold, Michelle
22 smiling and squeezing my hand as Bo bounded in and out of the bushes with the girls
23 giving chase—that I felt normal and whole and as lucky as any man has a right to expect.



from *A Promised Land*

by Barack Obama





Read carefully the passage given above and answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. Name two of the animals found in The White House garden.

[2]

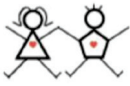
2. In your own words, describe the appearance of the south lawn.

[3]

3. Re-read lines 18-23. Why was Bo special to Obama and his family?

[6]





4. Which word is closest in meaning to “bliss” (line 12)?

- A. Delight
- B. Regret
- C. Misery
- D. Delirium
- E. Boredom

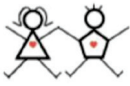
[1]

5. What type of animal is Bo?

- A. Cat
- B. Hamster
- C. Rabbit
- D. Goldfish
- E. Dog

[1]





An extract from David Nott's autobiography, War Doctor, in which he looks back on his experience as a trauma doctor in war-torn regions.

1 Every now and then, at any time of day or night, we might hear the blaring of a car or pickup
2 truck's horn in the distance, getting louder and louder as the vehicle sped towards us with its
3 cargo of victims. The horns acted as a siren, and we'd know to get the emergency room ready
4 so we could assess the patients and decide who needed to go straight into theatre. On one
5 occasion the first patient to need our help turned out to be the wife of a local bomb-maker.
6 At that time there were a lot of small factories opening up that were making explosives. These
7 were fairly crude devices and few of the people making them knew what they were doing –
8 they were mostly working at home, making it up as they went along, and putting their own
9 families at terrible risk.

10 The woman's husband had apparently been making a bomb in his kitchen when it had
11 detonated prematurely. The whole house was destroyed, the bomb-maker killed and his wife
12 rushed to us with a fragment injury to her lower left leg. She was haemorrhaging significantly
13 from the wound, which required a tourniquet to be placed immediately on the thigh.

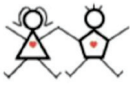
14 The anaesthetist took a quick blood sample and put it through our very basic
15 haemoglobinometer, a device which measures the red cell count in blood. It confirmed that
16 she had a haemoglobin of 4 grams per litre – the normal amount of haemoglobin in our
17 bodies, the stuff that carries oxygen in the blood, is between 12 and 15g/L. It was clear she
18 had lost a great deal of blood. He quickly established her blood group and then went to get a
19 pint of fresh blood of the right type from our dwindling supplies. Then, on the other arm, he
20 set up a saline drip to replace some of the fluid that she had lost.

21 All this happened on the operating table in the dining room. The sister in charge set up the
22 trolley with sterile drapes and instruments as the patient was given general anaesthetic. It was
23 impossible to assess the wound properly as there was arterial bleeding, most likely from the
24 superficial femoral artery in the leg. There was a large dressing on the top, which was acting
25 as a local compression. I scrubbed up and prepared to operate.



from *War Doctor*
by David Nott





Read carefully the passage given above and answer the following questions in the space provided.

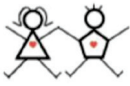
6. What has happened to the woman David Nott looks after in the extract?

[2]

7. Re-read lines 19-22. Which two phrases suggest David Nott is working in difficult conditions?

[2]





8. Re-read lines 14-20. In your own words, summarise the events detailed in this paragraph.

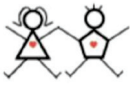
[5]

9. What does the writer mean when he describes the explosives as “crude devices” (line 7)?

- A. They are highly-sophisticated weapons
- B. The explosives are intricate and well-designed
- C. They are unlikely to cause harm
- D. They have been constructed in a rudimentary and makeshift way
- E. The explosives have been developed by experts

[1]



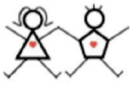


10. How did David Nott and his colleagues know when a casualty was approaching?

- A. They were notified by the local authorities
- B. The horns of the vehicles carrying potential victims would act as signals
- C. They would receive radio information regarding the casualties
- D. A specialist look-out was employed to watch for incoming vehicles
- E. The noise from the ambulance sirens alerted them

[1]





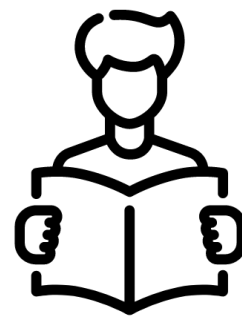
This excerpt, taken from the first chapter of Roald Dahl's latest biography, examines his time at boarding school as a young boy.

1 When he first went to boarding school, Roald was very homesick. He slept in his bed the
2 wrong way round, with his head near the window, so that he could look out across the
3 Bristol Channel towards Llandaff, his home town in Wales, on the other side of the water.
4 Once he was so homesick that he pretended to be seriously ill with appendicitis, which
5 wasn't just an illness that would get him out of school for a couple of weeks, but an illness
6 that meant a surgeon would slice him open and whip out his appendix. He wanted to go
7 home that badly. The family doctor soon figured out that Roald was just pretending and so
8 the doctor struck a deal: the doctor wouldn't say anything about Roald fibbing and would
9 confirm that he had a real stomach infection – but only if Roald went back to school.

10 I should say here that anyone writing about Roald Dahl's life has to be very, very, careful
11 about one thing. Roald sometimes told stories that were not completely and utterly true. He
12 once wrote, "I don't lie, I merely make the truth a little more interesting...I don't break my
13 word – I merely bend it slightly".

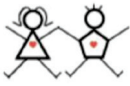
14 So, did Roald really strike a deal with the doctor? Did he really fool Matron and his teachers
15 that he had appendicitis? We'll never know for certain. My guess is that something like that
16 happened, but as he told the story he added bits to it. And I think this because – shhh – I do
17 the same thing when I write!

18 But what he do know is that Roald Dahl was definitely homesick. He says that for the
19 whole of the first term he was homesick. He talks of the people looking after him – the
20 headmaster, teachers, and Matron – as if they were a mix of tyrants, dictators, swindlers
21 and cranks. However you might be surprised about the sort of home he was homesick for,
22 because his family was quite EXTRAORDINARY.



from *Fantastic Mr Dahl*
by Michael Rosen





Read carefully the passage given above and answer the following questions in the space provided.

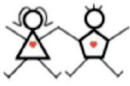
- 11. What did Roald Dahl mean when he said: “I don’t break my word – I merely bend it slightly” (line 13)?**

[2]

- 12. Re-read lines 14-17. How might the ideas expressed in this paragraph undermine the reader’s trust in the author?**

[3]





13. In your own words, summarise what Roald Dahl did to try and overcome his feelings of homesickness.

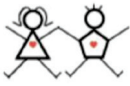
[4]

14. Which word is closest in meaning to “fool” (line 14)?

- A. Upset
- B. Trick
- C. Enrage
- D. Amuse
- E. Insult

[1]





15. What illness did Roald Dahl feign?

- A. Conjunctivitis
- B. Asthma
- C. Appendicitis
- D. Tonsilitis
- E. Influenza

[1]

