ENGLISH

Practice Entrance Examination to Year 7

Time: 1 HOUR 10 MINUTES

Instructions to candidates

You should spend 35 minutes on each section.

Section B starts on a new sheet after the reading section.

Write your answers to Section A on one sheet of paper.
Take a new sheet of paper for Section B

Write in complete sentences. Use your best handwriting and take care with your spelling and punctuation.
SECTION A: READING

Spend 10 minutes reading before you start answering the questions.

Spend 25 minutes answering all the questions.

Harry Potter is a young boy who has just arrived at his new school.

Feeling oddly as though his legs had turned to lead, Harry got into line behind a boy with sandy hair, with Ron behind him, and they walked out of the chamber, back across the hall and through a pair of double doors into the Great Hall.

Harry had never even imagined such a strange and splendid place. It was lit by thousands and thousands of candles which were floating in mid-air over four long tables, where the rest of the students were sitting. These tables were laid with glittering golden plates and goblets. At the top of the Hall was another long table where the teachers were sitting. Professor McGonagall led the first-years up here, so that they came to a halt in a line facing the other students, with the teachers behind them. The hundreds of faces staring at them looked like pale lanterns in the flickering candlelight. Dotted here and there among the students, the ghosts shone misty silver.

Harry’s mouth fell open. The dishes in front of him were now piled with food. He had never seen so many things he liked to eat on one table: roast beef, roast chicken, pork chops and lamb chops, sausages, bacon and steak, boiled potatoes, roast potatoes, chips, Yorkshire pudding, peas, carrots, gravy, ketchup and, for some strange reason, mint humbugs.

The Dursleys had never exactly starved Harry, but he’d never been allowed to eat as much as he liked. Dudley had always taken anything that Harry really wanted, even if it made him sick. Harry piled his plate with a bit of everything except the humbugs and began to eat. It was all delicious.

‘That does look good,’ said the ghost in the ruff sadly, watching Harry cut up his steak.

‘Can’t you -?’

‘I haven’t eaten for nearly four hundred years,’ said the ghost. ‘I don’t need to, of course, but one does miss it. I don’t think I’ve introduced myself? Sir Nicholas de Mimsy-Porpington at your service. Resident ghost of Gryffindor Tower.’

‘I know who you are!’ said Ron suddenly. ‘My brothers told me about you—you’re Nearly Headless Nick!’

(continued)
Questions to Section A

Look carefully at the number of marks for each question. If a question is worth 6 marks, you need to write quite a long paragraph for your answer.

1. How does Harry feel as he lines up to go into the Great Hall? (You may use the writer’s words) 1 mark
2. How do Harry’s feelings change when he sees the Great Hall? 2 marks
3. Describe how the hall looks and explain why the writer has used these descriptions. 4 marks
4. What effect does the flickering candlelight have on the pupils’ faces? 2 marks
5. What is strange about the food on the table? 1 mark
6. What impression are you given of the Dursley family? Write a short paragraph for your answer. 4 marks
7. Explain how the author has made the occasion seem wonderful and exciting. You should mention as many ideas as you can in your answer and give some short examples from the passage. 6 marks

Total 25 marks

SECTION B: WRITING

Choose ONE of the following to write about. Write at least one page, taking care with your spelling, punctuation and writing.

Spend about 35 minutes on this task.

1. Write a story in which a meal plays an important part.

2. Write about a time when you enjoyed a meal as part of a celebration.

END OF EXAM