

The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School Elstree, Herts

13+ Entrance Examination 2014



ENGLISH

Time: One hour and 10 minutes

Please follow these instructions

There are two parts to this examination:

- **Part 1 tests your Reading (40 minutes, including 10 minutes reading time)**
- **Part 2 tests your Writing (30 minutes)**
- Put your name and examination number at the top of each new sheet of paper you use.
- Write in ink, and remember that handwriting and neatness will be taken into account.
- Begin Part 2 (the Writing Exercise) on a **new sheet** of paper.
- Do not take this question paper away.

PART 1 READING EXERCISE

Spend ten minutes at the start of the examination reading the following passage carefully. You can underline / highlight / annotate the passage in this time. Then spend thirty minutes answering the questions opposite.

The following passage is an extract from the novel *A Place of Greater Safety* by Hilary Mantel. It is an account of a formal visit by King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette of France in 1775 to a Jesuit College where the school's most worthy scholar reads them a loyal address.

5 The scholarship boy's mouth felt dry. His hand shook a little. But because of the Latin, no one would detect his provincial accent. The Queen bobbed out her lovely head and bobbed it in again. The King waved, and muttered something to a man in livery, who conveyed it by a sneer down a line of officials, who conveyed it by dumb show to the waiting world. All became clear; they would not descend. The address must be read to Their Majesties as they sit snug in the coach.

10 Father Poignard's head was whirling. He should have had carpets, he should have had canopies, he should have had some kind of temporary pavilion erected, perhaps bedecked with green boughs in the fashionable rustic style, perhaps with the royal arms on display, or the monarchs' entwined monograms made out of flowers. His expression grew wild, repentant, remote. Luckily, Father Herivaux remembered to give the nod to the scholarship boy. The boy began, his voice gathering strength after the first few nervous phrases. Father Herivaux relaxed, he had written it, 15 coached the boy. And he was satisfied, it sounded well.

20 The Queen was seen to shiver. 'Ah!' went the world. 'She shivered!' A half-second later, she stifled a yawn. The King turned, attentive. And what was this? The coachman was gathering the reins! The whole ponderous entourage stirred and creaked forward. They were going - the welcome not acknowledged, the address not half-read.

25 The scholarship boy did not seem to notice what was happening. He just went on orating. His face was set and pale, he was looking straight ahead. Surely he must know that by now they are driving down the street? The air was loud with unvoiced sentiment. All term we've been planning this... The crush moved, aimlessly, on the spot. The rain was coming down harder now. It seemed rude to break ranks and dash for cover, yet no ruder than what the King and Queen had done, driving off like that.

30 Father Poignard said, 'It's nothing personal. It's nothing we did surely?' 'Might as well talk to her in Japanese, I suppose,' said the student at his elbow.

Father Poignard said, 'Camille, for once you are right.'

35 The scholarship boy was now concluding his speech. Without a smile, he bid a fond and loyal goodbye to the monarchs who were no longer in sight, and hoped that the school would have the honour, at some future time...

A consoling hand dropped on his shoulder. 'Never mind, de Robespierre, it could have happened to anybody.'

Then, at last, the scholarship boy smiled.

QUESTIONS (50 marks)

1. Note down two short phrases from lines 1-7 which indicate that the scholarship boy was nervous. (2 marks)
2. What does the word *provincial* (line 2) mean? (2 marks)
3. What is the name of the scholarship boy? (2 marks)
4. In the opening paragraph, what impression does Mantel create of the King and Queen? Include two short quotations from this opening paragraph to support your response. (6 marks)
5. (a) What does the word *repentant* (line 13) mean? (2 marks)
(b) Why do you think that Father Poignard was *repentant*? (4 marks)
6. What was the weather like? Include two short quotations to support your response. (4 marks)
7. (a) What do you think the *sentiment* (line 25) refers to? (4 marks)
(b) Why do you think that this *sentiment* was *unvoiced* (line 25)? Give as many reasons as you can in this response. (6 marks)
8. What do you think Camille meant by suggesting '*Might as well talk to her in Japanese, I suppose,*' (line 30)? (2 marks)
9. Explain and explore any humour that you found in the passage. Give as much detail as you can and include supporting quotations. (8 marks)
10. The French Revolution took place little more than a decade after this account. What suggestion is there in the passage that a revolution would take place soon afterwards? Give as much detail as you can and include supporting quotations in your response. (8 marks)

TURN OVER FOR PART 2 >

PART 2 WRITING EXERCISE - thirty minutes

PLEASE START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER. PUT YOUR NAME AND EXAM NUMBER AT THE TOP.

Write as accurately and as interestingly as you can on ONE of the following tasks.

Either

1. Imagine and describe a time when a member of the Royal Family visited your school. You may choose to write in the first or third person, but focus primarily on creating mood and atmosphere rather than developing the character / narrator.

Or

2. Write about an event that did not go according to plan.

(50 marks)

END OF EXAMINATION

Remember to check that you have written your name and examination number on each sheet of paper that you have used.