



OUNDLÉ

School

2016 Non Common Entrance Examination

Third and Fourth Form Entry

English

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- **Dictionaries are not allowed.**
- Answer on lined paper. Clearly mark your name at the top of each sheet of paper you use.
- Answer ALL the questions in Section A. Answer ONE question from Section B. **You should divide your time equally between both sections.**
- You are expected to write clearly and accurately in your answers. Write in full sentences. You should leave some time towards the end of the examination to check your work carefully.
- The maximum number of marks for this paper is 50.

Section A: Comprehension

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

The following passage is from E. M. Forster's novel *A Passage to India* (1924). The novel is set in the fictional Indian city of Chandrapore in the 1920s, when India was part of the British Empire. At this time, there were strict rules in society governing social class, religion and relations between men and women. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The main characters are:

- Mrs Moore and Miss Quested - visitors from England
- Dr Aziz – an Indian employee who has promised to take the visitors on a trip
- Mahmoud Ali – a local Indian employer
- Ronny Heaslop – a British official living in India
- Fielding and Professor Godbole – friends of Aziz
- Major Callendar – Dr Aziz's employer

These hills look romantic in certain lights and at suitable distances, and seen of an evening from the upper veranda of the Club they caused Miss Quested to say conversationally to Miss Derek that she should have liked to have gone, that Dr Aziz at Mr Fielding's had said he would arrange something, and that Indians seem rather forgetful. She was overheard by the servant who offered them vermouths¹. This servant understood English. And he was not exactly a spy, but he kept his ears open, and Mahmoud Ali did not exactly bribe him, but did encourage him to come and squat with his own servants, and would happen to stroll their way when he was there. As the story travelled, it accreted emotion, and Aziz learned with horror that the ladies were deeply offended with him, and had expected an invitation daily. He thought his facile² remark had been forgotten. Endowed with two memories, a temporary and a permanent, he had hitherto relegated the caves to the former. Now he transferred them once for all, and pushed the matter through. They were to be a stupendous replica of the tea-party. He began by securing Fielding and old Godbole, and then commissioned Fielding to approach Mrs Moore and Miss Quested when they were alone – by this device, Ronny, their official protector, could be circumvented. Fielding didn't like the job much; he was busy, caves bored him, he foresaw friction and expense, but he would not refuse the first favour his friend had asked from him, and did as required. The ladies accepted. It was a little inconvenient in the present press of their engagements, still, they hoped to manage it after consulting Mr Heaslop. Consulted, Ronny raised no objection, provided Fielding undertook full responsibility for their comfort. He was not enthusiastic about the picnic, but then no more were the ladies – no one was enthusiastic, yet it took place.

Aziz was terribly worried. It was not a long expedition – a train left Chandrapore just before dawn, another would bring them back for tiffin³ – but he was only a little official still, and feared to acquit himself⁴ dishonourably. He had to ask Major Callendar for half a day's leave, and be refused because of his recent malingering⁵; despair, renewed approach of Major Callendar through Fielding, and contemptuous snarling permission. He had to borrow cutlery from Mahmoud Ali without inviting him. Then there was the question of alcohol: Mr Fielding, and perhaps the ladies, were drinkers, so must he provide whiskey-

sodas and ports? There was the problem of transport from the wayside station of Marabar 30
to the caves. There was the problem of Professor Godbole and his food, and of Professor
Godbole and other people's food – two problems, not one problem. The Professor was not
a very strict Hindu – he would take tea, fruit, soda-water and sweets, whoever cooked
them, and vegetables and rice if cooked by a Brahman⁶; but not meat, not cakes lest they
contained eggs, and he would not allow anyone else to eat beef: a slice of beef upon a 35
distant plate would wreck his happiness. Other people might eat mutton, they might eat
ham. But over ham Aziz's own religion raised its voice: he did not fancy other people
eating ham. Trouble after trouble encountered him, because he had challenged the spirit
of the Indian earth, which tries to keep men in compartments.

At last the moment arrived. 40

His friends thought him most unwise to mix himself up with English ladies, and
warned him to take every precaution against unpunctuality. Consequently he spent the
previous night at the station. The servants were huddled on the platform, enjoined not to
stray. He himself walked up and down with old Mohammed Latif, who was to act as
major-domo⁷. He felt insecure and also unreal. A car drove up, and he hoped Fielding 45
would get out of it, to lend him solidity. But it contained Mrs Moore, Miss Quested and
their Goanese⁸ servant. He rushed to meet them, suddenly happy. 'But you've come after
all. Oh how very kind of you!' he cried. 'This is the happiest moment in all my life.'

¹ *vermouths*: vermouth is a kind of alcoholic drink

² *facile*: lacking in seriousness

³ *tiffin*: a light meal or afternoon tea

⁴ *acquit himself*: to behave in a certain way

⁵ *malingering*: to pretend to be ill

⁶ *Brahman*: typically a member of the Hindu priesthood

⁷ *major-domo*: someone who makes arrangements for someone else

⁸ *Goanese*: i.e. from the state of Goa, an area in western India

1. Look at lines 1-5. Why does Miss Quested think the trip to the caves will not take place? (2 marks)
2. Look at lines 23-24. Approximately how long will the trip to the caves last? (2 marks)
3. Look at lines 16-22. Using your own words, explain what the characters think of the trip and why.
Choose two of the following:
 - The ladies (Mrs Moore and Miss Quested)
 - Mr Fielding
 - Ronny Heaslop (4 marks)
4. Explain what the following words mean in this passage. If you are unsure, make an intelligent guess from what you think the writer is saying.
 - (i) accreted (line 8)
 - (ii) circumvented (line 15)
 - (iii) contemptuous (line 27) (1 mark each)

5. Looking again at lines 27-38, give three reasons why Aziz finds it difficult to arrange food and drink for the trip. Use quotations from the text to support your answer.

(6 marks)

6. What impression do you get of Aziz from the way he is described in the passage?

In your answer, you should write about:

- how Aziz behaves around other people
- what other people think of him
- why he organises the trip
- anything else you think is relevant

Use quotations to support the points you make.

(8 marks)

(Total: 25 marks)

Section B: Composition

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

Answer ONE of the following questions. You are reminded of the importance of clear and accurate written English and of careful presentation in your answer. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Describe a trip or a journey that you have been on in a way that creates a clear picture of it in the reader's mind. In your answer you might like to write about:

- any preparations you had to make before you started
- what you saw as you travelled
- your thoughts and feelings when you reached your destination

(25 marks)

OR

2. "This is the happiest moment in all my life."

Write a short story that uses this sentence as a title or which contains this sentence at some point. Make your writing interesting and original.

(25 marks)

OR

3. No country ever has the right to rule or try to control another country.

Write giving your opinions for or against this statement.

(25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS