



# OUNDLÉ

School

2020 Junior Entrance Examination

## English

Time allowed: **60 minutes**

### ***Instructions***

- *There are two Sections: Section A should take 35 minutes and Section B 25 minutes.*
- *Please start each section on a new piece of paper and write your name at the top of each piece of paper you use*
- *Answer in full sentences unless asked to do otherwise*
- *Accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be evaluated although there is not a specific mark allocation for these elements*
- *While accuracy is desirable throughout the paper, it will be particularly noted in Section B*
- *Remember to leave yourself enough time to check your work*
- *Dictionaries are not allowed*

*Good Luck*

## English Section A

Read this extract from “The Amazing Mr Blunden” by Antonia Barber and answer the questions which follow.

You should spend about 35 minutes on this section of the paper.

- 1 The wet daffodils shone in a golden heap in the grey trug\* as Lucy came up the path from the lake. The gravel that crunched beneath her feet was full of sprouting weeds and moss grew in the shady patches. The whole garden was badly neglected but it still had a wild beauty. Now that the summer is over, thought Lucy, I'll get Jamie to help me tidy it up a bit.
- 6 She took a short cut through the overgrown ruins at the east end of the house and stopped to look up at the pointed window arches that stood out like bones against the sky. Like the bones of the bird in the gutter, she thought; all that is left of a long dead building. She could see that it had once been a wing of the house, but the soaring arches seemed to be of some older style, perhaps some old abbey, destroyed by Henry the Eighth. Clumps of herbs had spread from the garden into the ruins: thyme and marjoram which gave off a sweet wet scent underfoot. There were wall flowers too, high up on the stonework, and she added to her basket the few that were within reach.
- 14 Beyond the ruins a gravel path wound its way into the shrubbery and she went on in search of the rhododendron. She smelt it before she saw it, a thick honey scent filling the air, and then round a corner she found the big pale-pink blossoms against dark leaves.
- 17 She picked half- a- dozen and then stood idly, breathing in the rich perfume. The air was noisy with birds and she could see through a gap in the bushes the bright green of the lawns with the crowding trees beyond. The heat of the spring sunshine was drying up the heavy rainfall which rose in patches of mist above the grass.
- 21 Lucy began to feel strangely drowsy as though the scent of the flowers were a sweet heavy drug. Her mind seemed to be growing still and empty almost as it had stuck in a groove from which she was unable to move it. Her eyes seemed to focus somewhere short of the point she was looking at. She felt that she ought to make some movement, to break the growing sense of stillness that was creeping over her, but the effort was too great. A blackbird was calling, a single note repeated, a warning note; but she could not turn her head to look at him. It was as if she were concentrating all her mind upon one thing, but against her will and upon something that she did not understand.
- 29 Then she sensed that there was something moving through the mist on the lawn, just beyond the point at which her eyes were focused. She could not see very clearly, but it seemed to be two pale figures and they were moving towards her slowly and with purpose.
- 33 Fear gripped her. She dropped the basket and her mind leaped from its groove. She looked wildly around her but there was nothing there. The columns of mist were dissolving above the lawn; the blackbird was singing, a full- throated bubbling song as though he might burst at any minute.
- 37 Everything was perfectly normal and yet she was afraid. She felt convinced that she had narrowly escaped something. With swift, nervous movements, she gathered up the scattered flowers. Then she ran as fast as she could towards the house only to crash headlong into Jamie who was coming the other way.

\*Trug = a shallow wooden basket

**Questions:**

1. What does the author mean when she says the garden still had “a wild beauty”? [2]
2. What simile does the author use to describe the pointed window arches? Explain why this might be an appropriate comparison. [4]
3. With reference to **lines 1 to 20**, select and explain **6 phrases** which show that the writer is appealing to the senses of hearing, seeing or smelling in order to create a vivid “picture” of the scene. Be sure to explain each of your choices. [6]
4. In your own words, describe the appearance of the gardens and the ruins. [4]
5. Explain the meaning of the following four words as they are used in this passage.  
A) Line 9 soaring  
B) Line 21 drowsy  
C) Line 30 focused  
D) Line 34 columns [8]
6. What sensations overtake Lucy as she stands amid the rhododendrons? [4]
7. What impression do you receive of the figures “moving through the mist”? Why might they seem sinister or frightening? [3]
8. How does Lucy react and why? [4]

Total : 35 Marks

Turn over for Section B

## Section B Creative Writing

Start this question on a fresh sheet of paper and write your name at the top.

Choose **one** option

EITHER:

1. Continue the story.  
Try to think carefully about your description and phrasing as well as events.

OR:

2. You are awakened in the middle of the night by a strange noise. What happens when you go to investigate?

OR:

3. Write a description or a story inspired by this picture.

Total : 25 Marks

