



OUNDLÉ

School

EXAMINATION PAPER

Junior Entrance 2024

English

Time allowed: 1 hour

Name: _____

Instructions

- Dictionaries are not allowed.
- Answer on lined paper. Write your name clearly at the top of each sheet of paper that you use.
- Start Section B on a new sheet of paper.
- Answer **ALL** the questions in Section A. Choose **ONE** question from Section B. You are given advice about how long to spend of each section.
- You are expected to write clearly and accurately throughout each of your answers. Accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be evaluated throughout the paper (and especially in Section B), although there is no actual mark allocation for these elements. 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

You should spend about 35 minutes on this section. You should write in full sentences, including as much detail as necessary to explain your point/points clearly. **[Please note that this section is worth 30 marks and the final question carries 12 marks].**

Read this extract adapted from Charles Dickens' novel Oliver Twist set in London in 1837, and answer the questions which follow. In this extract a character called Fagin leaves his house to visit a man called Bill Sykes.

It was a chill, damp, windy night, when Fagin, buttoning his great-coat tight round his shrivelled body, and pulling the collar up over his ears so as completely to obscure the lower part of his face, emerged from his house. He paused on the step as the door was locked and chained behind him and slunk down the street as quickly as he could.

5 The house to which he headed was in the neighborhood of Whitechapel. Fagin stopped for an instant at the corner of the street; and, glancing suspiciously round, crossed the road, and struck off in the direction of the Spitalfields.

10 The mud lay thick upon the stones, and a black mist hung over the streets; the rain fell sluggishly down, and everything felt cold and clammy to the touch. It seemed just the night when it befitted such a being as Fagin to be abroad. As he glided stealthily along, creeping beneath the shelter of the walls and doorways, the old man seemed like some dinosaur, engendered in the slime and darkness through which he moved: crawling forth, by night, in search of some rich offal for a meal.

15 He kept on his course, through many winding and narrow ways, until he reached Bethnal Green; then, turning suddenly off to the left, he soon became involved in a maze of the mean and dirty streets which abound in that close and densely-populated quarter.

20 Fagin was evidently too familiar with the ground he traversed to be at all bewildered, either by the darkness of the night, or the intricacies of the way. He hurried through several alleys and streets, and at length turned into one, lighted only by a single lamp at the farther end. At the door of a house in this street, he knocked; having exchanged a few muttered words with the person who opened it, he walked upstairs.

A dog growled as he touched the handle of a room-door; and a man's voice demanded who was there.

"Only me, Bill; only me, my dear," said Fagin looking in.

25 "Bring in your body then," said Sikes. "Lie down, you stupid brute! Don't you know the devil when he's got a great-coat on?"

Apparently, the dog had been somewhat deceived by Mr. Fagin's outer garment; for as he unbuttoned it, and threw it over the back of a chair, he retired to the corner from which he had risen, wagging his tail as he went, to show that he was as well satisfied as it was in his nature to be.

"Well!" said Sikes.

30 "It is cold, said the Fagin as he warmed his skinny hands over the fire. "It seems to go right through one," added the old man, touching his side.

"It must be a piercer, if it finds its way through your heart," said Mr. Sikes. "Give him something to drink, Nancy*. Burn my body, make haste! It's enough to turn a man ill, to see his lean old carcass shivering in that way, like a ugly ghost just rose from the grave."

35 A long silence ensued; during which Fagin was plunged in deep thought, with his face wrinkled into an expression of villainy perfectly demoniacal. Sikes eyed him furtively from time to time. Nancy sat with her eyes fixed upon the fire.

** A woman called Nancy is in the room too and it is she Sikes turns to in this final paragraph*

Questions:

1. Look at the first paragraph (Lines 1-4) . Which words and phrases suggest to you that Fagin did not want to be seen that night?
[4 marks]
2. Read lines 8-10. Explain what impression you get of London **using your own words**.
[3 marks]
3. What simile does Dickens use to describe Fagin in line 11.
[1 mark]
4. Why is this simile effective? Look closely at lines 8 to 12 and explain your answer fully.
[4 marks]
5. Explain the meaning of the following words or phrases as they appear in the passage.
 - Abound (Line 15)
 - Traversed (Line 16)
 - The intricacies of the way (Line 17)
 - Retired (Line 27)[4 marks]
6. Looking at the passage as a whole, what impressions do you get of Fagin? Explore your answer fully.
[12 marks]

[TURN OVER FOR SECTION B]

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING

You should spend around 25 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.

Start your answer on a new sheet of paper and write your name at the top.

EITHER

1. In the passage from *Oliver Twist*, Fagin leaves his house and arrives at Bill Sykes' house. Neither houses are described. Choose **one** and describe it in a way which seems fitting in light of what you have read in the passage.

OR

2. In the passage, London is presented in a negative light. Write a description or story in which a character travels, portraying the character and place in a positive way. You could choose a city, or the countryside or the coast, or a place of your own choice. Your character does not have to be a man.

[22 marks]

END OF PAPER