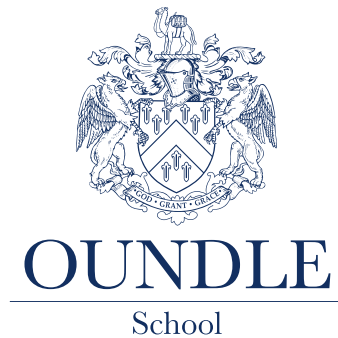




OUNDLE

School

13+ Academic Scholarship 2026

English

Time allowed: 90 minutes

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.
- Answer **ALL** the questions in **Section A**. **Choose ONE question from Section B**. You should divide your time as follows.

Approximately 50 minutes on Section A

Approximately 30 minutes on Section B.

This will give you approximately 10 minutes to check your work.

- You are expected to write clearly and accurately throughout each of your answers, paying careful attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar. 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 and analysis.

Spend 50 minutes on this section.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions which follow. The novel is set in 1923, in Oakland, a city in California.

Carter walked Baby without a leash. There was no real point in having one. Instead, he used voice commands to keep the lion in sight. They had walked together for twelve years, all over the world, in cities and villages, on sea-shores and mountain trails. In the last two years, Baby had increasingly preferred to stroll and sit, and listen to the wind coming through the woods rather than stalk squirrels or race after shadows. Baby trotted between the two weathered stone lions that flanked the entrance paying them no attention (though Carter was always hoping for some kind of recognition). Instead, Baby was intent, as ever, on trotting to the lake's nearest lip and peering over the edge. A breeze caught the water, and ripples played against the reflection of thousands of tiny outdoor lights that hung between the street lamps.

Carter, who'd never seen a ghost, nonetheless found the idea of them wonderful. Who wouldn't want to see a ghost? Whenever he visited the park at night he saw nothing. On weekend afternoons he **detoured through its rambles** on the way to the ferry, watching the boaters, the Sunday painters, the wild and frantic children, and he thought how odd it was that the same joyful places, minus the sunlight, became frightening.

Which brought him back to ghosts, as his first fresh idea for a trick in nine years was a type of highly realistic spirit manifestation. Twenty-five minutes of his recent show 'The Levitation of Madame Zorah' had involved a séance with disembodied moans, a rapping spirit hand and the floating medium who made predictions and answered the audience's intimate questions. Carter had never been comfortable with this act, but all of his peers presented such illusions – they were popular. He hoped his show would show that spiritualism was just a gag, and yet, inevitably, each performance resulted in several letters reaching Carter's hotel, desperately worded petitions to bring a loved one back from the grave. On some days, these letters depressed Carter – the authors were never clever – but on others they simply broke his heart.

Suddenly, Baby's body went rigid, the golden teardrop at the end of his tail flicking, and he was off like a shot, disappearing into the undergrowth. Carter clicked his tongue disapprovingly. He could hear the crunch of breaking twigs. He whistled, and the sounds stopped. The lion did not return.

Baby had gone deeper into the park. If Baby were after a robber, his master would not mind – and might even enjoy it a little. He stood silently by the edge of the lake, peering into the woods, hoping of a sound to give Baby's game away. There was a brief outline of the lion as he ducked, belly to the ground, out of one bush and into another. But where was he going? The necklace of lights was not bright enough to see clearly. A quick gust of wind jangled the lights, and in horror, Carter saw, outlined

under a streetlamp, the wide hat and slender figure of a solitary woman sitting on a park bench. Baby was hunting her.

40 There was not time for Carter to cry out; in less than a second, Baby had vaulted the back of the bench, and landed with a thud, paws outstretched, back arched, teeth bared. Carter ran towards the scene with his heart in his mouth.

45 Then he saw something that stopped him dead: the woman was passing Baby a bite from her sandwich. The woman tugged on another piece of meat, unimpressed that a lion was nuzzling the ground by her ankles. With Carter a dozen yards behind her, the woman said loudly, over her shoulder, 'I hope it's all right that I feed him roast beef.'

 After clearing the rocks from his throat, he answered, 'Yes, Yes, he likes roast beef.' What a cool customer.

50 'Good. I am wondering what sort of dog he is, exactly.'

 Carter laughed. A *very* cool customer. 'He's a schnauzer.'

 'You are teasing me,' she said. 'I happen to know that schnauzers are much smaller. What is his name?'

 'Baby.'

55 'And what sort of dog is he?'

 'All right, if he isn't a schnauzer, then he is a lion.'

 'Now I know you are teasing me,' she said tossing another piece of roast beef

 'He's not a mountain lion, either. He's a lion from Africa.'

60 She said nothing, and Carter was disappointed. When she held out the next piece of roast beef, and Baby advanced towards it, she slowly pulled it out of reach, making Baby pass by her. She ran her hands down his mane to the bulb of hair at the end of his tail.

65 'My God, ' she shrieked, stumbling from the bench, and turning, under the lights, Carter saw her face, now a bloodless white, her lips obscured as she brought her hands to her mouth. She was shaking. Her glasses were painted black, matte black, across both lenses.

 'Oh,' he said without thinking, 'you're blind.'

 'It's a lion,' she cried.

Adapted from Carter Beats the Devil by Glen David Gold

1. Why is there no point in Carter having a leash for Baby? (Line 1)
(2 marks)
2. Why do you think Baby's behaviour has changed in the last two years?
(Lines 4-6) (1 mark)
3. Explain in your own words, "detoured through its rambles". (Line 13)
(2 marks)
4. If Carter did not like seance tricks (when he appears to call up spirits) why did he perform them? (Lines 18-22) (2 marks)
5. Look closely at lines 25-38. How does the writer create tension when the lion moves towards the lady? Look to incorporate quotations into your answer.
(8 marks)
6. This question carries the most marks. What impressions do you have of Carter from this passage? Explain your answer fully and make detailed reference to the text to support your answer.
(10 marks)

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

Section B: extended writing.

Spend 30 minutes on this section.

There is a choice of two extended writing tasks. Credit will be given for how well you structure your writing and for your creativity and flair. You are reminded of the importance of clear and accurate written English and of careful presentation.

Either

- Write an article for your local newspaper in which you explore the benefits and problems associated with owning a pet.

Or

- Write a story, or part of a story, which features a magic trick.

(25 marks)