



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
AT LEEDS

Be Inspired

## **ENGLISH READING ENTRANCE EXAMINATION ENTRY TO YEAR 7**

**Time Allowed: 45 minutes**

There is a passage to read and you then have about  
40 minutes to answer the questions.

Write your answers on the lined sheets of paper provided.

**Do not forget to put your name on every sheet. Please write your  
first name and family name (surname) in BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS.**

## I am Malala

**In this extract from Malala Yousafzai’s autobiography, *I am Malala*, she describes her school and what her life was like prior to being attacked by the Taliban.**

5 Since the time of the Taliban, our school has had no sign and the **ornamented** brass door in a white wall gives no hint of what lies beyond.

10 For us girls, that doorway was like a magical entrance to our own special world. As we skipped through, we cast off our head scarves and ran helter-skelter up the steps. At the top of the steps was an open courtyard with doors to all the classrooms. We **dumped** our backpacks in our rooms, then gathered for assembly under the sky, our backs to the mountains.

15 The school was **founded** by my father before I was born, and on the wall above us, “Khushal School” was painted proudly in red and white letters. We went to school six mornings a week, and as I was in Year 9, my classes were spent chanting chemical equations or studying Urdu grammar, writing stories in English with morals like “Haste makes waste” or drawing diagrams of blood circulation—most of my classmates wanted to be doctors. It’s hard to imagine that anyone would see that as a threat. Yet outside the school lay not only the noise and craziness of Mingora, the main city of the province of Swat, but also those, like the Taliban, who think girls should not go to school.

20 Because it was exam time, school started at 9 instead of 8 that morning, which was good, as I don’t like getting up and can sleep through the crows of the roosters and the prayer calls of the muezzin.

25 I slept in the room at the front of our house. The only furniture was a bed and a cabinet that I had bought with the money I’d been given as an award for campaigning for peace in our valley and the right for girls to go to school. On some shelves were the gold-coloured plastic cups and trophies I had won for coming first in my class. There were a few times I had not come out on top—both times I was beaten by my class rival, Malka-e-Noor. I was determined it would not happen again.

30 The school was not far from my home and I used to walk, but since the start of the last year I had been going with other girls in a rickshaw and coming home by bus. It was a journey of five minutes along the stinky stream, past the giant billboard for Dr. Humayun’s Hair Transplant Institute, where we joked that one of our bald male teachers must have gone when he suddenly started to sprout hair. I liked riding the bus because I didn’t get as sweaty as when I walked, and I could chat with my friends and gossip with Usman Ali, the driver, whom we called Bhai Jan, or “brother.” He made us all  
35 laugh with his crazy stories.

## Questions

**Write your answers neatly and pay attention to how many marks each question is worth to judge how much detail is expected.**

1. What did the girls gather for at the beginning of the day? (1)
2. How often did Malala go to school and what year group was she in? (2)
3. What job did most of Malala's classmates want in the future and who believed this was a 'threat'? (2)
4. What time did school start that day and why was this different to usual? (2)
5. What two things could Malala sleep through? (2)
6. From line 24-29 of the passage, write down a short quotation to show that Malala was ambitious. Explain how your quotation makes the reader think and feel. (3)
7. Write down THREE ADJECTIVES, from line 31 to the end, which describe Malala's journey home. Explain what is suggested about the area or journey by that adjective. (3)
8. What technique does Malala use when she describes how 'that doorway was like a magical entrance to our own special world'? What ideas does the technique give you about the impact the school had on her? (3)
9. What do the following words mean **as they are used here in this passage** (look back at the sentence they came from to work out the meaning):
  - a. ornamented (line 5)
  - b. dumped (line 10)
  - c. founded (line 13)
  - d. campaigning (line 24)
  - e. rival (line 27)
  - f. sprout (line 32) (6)
10. From reading the whole passage, what ideas do you have about what life was like for Malala before she was shot by the Taliban? Aim to give three different ideas and use examples (quotations) from the passage to support each point. (6)

**TOTAL MARKS: 30**