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11+ SPECIMEN PAPER

ENGLISH

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Time allowed: 45 minutes

Instructions

- Use **black or blue** ink or ball-point pen.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 35
- The marks for each question are shown in bracket, use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.
- There are two sections:
Section A – Comprehension
Section B – Creative Writing

Advice

- Try to answer every question.

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FIRST NAME :

SURNAME :

CURRENT SCHOOL :

SECTION A (allow 20 minutes for this section)

Read the following extract, taken from Roald Dahl's "Matilda", and answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.

Matilda was a little late in starting school. Most children begin Primary School at five or even just before, but Matilda's parents, who weren't very concerned one way or the other about their daughter's education, had forgotten to make the proper arrangements in advance. She was five and a half when she entered school for the first time. The village school for younger children was a bleak brick building called Crunchem Hall Primary School. It had about two hundred and fifty pupils aged from five to just under twelve years old. The head teacher, the boss, the supreme commander of this establishment was a formidable middle-aged lady whose name was Miss Trunchbull.

Naturally Matilda was put in the bottom class, where there were eighteen other small boys and girls about the same age as her. Their teacher was called Miss Honey, and she could not have been more than twenty-three or twenty-four. She had a lovely pale oval madonna face with blue eyes and her hair was light-brown. Her body was so slim and fragile one got the feeling that if she fell over she would smash into a thousand pieces, like a porcelain figure.

Miss Jennifer Honey was a mild and quiet person who never raised her voice and was seldom seen to smile, but there is no doubt she possessed that rare gift for being adored by every small child under her care. She seemed to understand totally the bewilderment and fear that so often overwhelms young children who for the first time in their lives are herded into a classroom and told to obey orders. Some curious warmth that was almost tangible shone out of Miss Honey's face when she spoke to a confused and homesick newcomer to the class.

Miss Trunchbull, the Headmistress, was something else altogether. She was a gigantic holy terror, a fierce tyrannical monster who frightened the life out of the pupils and teachers alike. There was an aura of menace about her even at a distance, and when she came up close you could almost feel the dangerous heat radiating from her as from a red-hot rod of metal. When she marched – Miss Trunchbull never walked, she always marched like a storm-trooper with long strides and arms aswinging – when she marched along a corridor you could actually hear her snorting as she went, and if a group of children happened to be in her path, she ploughed right on through them like a tank, with small people bouncing off her to left and right. Thank goodness we don't meet many people like her in this world, although they do exist and all of us are likely to come across at least one of them in a lifetime. If you ever do, you should behave as you would if you met an enraged rhinoceros out in the bush — climb up the nearest tree and stay there until it has gone away. This woman, in all her eccentricities and in her appearance, is almost im-possible to describe, but I shall make some attempt to do so a little later on. Let us leave her for the moment and go back to Matilda and her first day in Miss Honey's class.

After the usual business of going through all the names of the children, Miss Honey handed out a brand-new exercise-book to each pupil.

"You have all brought your own pencils, I hope," she said.

"Yes, Miss Honey," they chanted.

"Good. Now this is the very first day of school for each one of you. It is the beginning of at least eleven long years of schooling that all of you are going to have to go through. And six of those years will be spent right here at Crunchem Hall where, as you know, your Headmistress is Miss Trunchbull. Let me for your own good tell you something about Miss Trunchbull. She insists upon strict discipline throughout the school, and if you take my advice you will do your very best to behave yourselves in her presence. Never argue with her. Never answer her back. Always do as she says. If you get on the wrong side of Miss Trunchbull she can liquidise you like a carrot in a kitchen blender. It's nothing to laugh about, Lavender. Take that grin off your face. All of you will be wise to remember that Miss Trunchbull deals very very severely with anyone who gets out of line in this school. Have you got the message?"

Multiple Choice Questions (use the separate answer sheet to circle the correct answer)

1. Which best describes Miss Honey's age?

A: Early twenties	B: Late twenties	C: Early thirties	D: Late thirties
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2. Which is the most accurate description of Miss Honey's appearance?

A: Long face with light brown hair	B: Long face with dark brown hair
C: Oval face with light brown hair	D: Oval face with dark brown hair

3. How many pupils are in the bottom class?

A: Eighteen	B: Nineteen	C: Twenty-three	D: Twenty-four
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4. Which word best describes how the extract describes how young children feel when they first enter a classroom?

A: Lonely	B: Excited	C: Anxious	D: Eager
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5. Miss Honey's figure is related to an ornament. Of what material is the ornament made?

A: Wood	B: Plastic	C: Brass	D: China
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6. The extract describes Miss Trunchbull. Several of the terms to describe her, would normally be associated with

A: metallurgy	B: farming	C: military	D: religion
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7. If Miss Trunchbull was near you, what would you be almost in danger of experiencing?

A: Ringing in your ears	B: The bad smell of her breath
C: Too much heat	D: Too much cold

8. As Miss Trunchbull marches around Crunchem Hall, the pupils:

A: are shouted at to "move aside"	B: hold the door open for her
C: know to stand out of her way	D: are barged out of the way

9. At least how many years will pupils spend in education away from Crunchem Hall?

A: Six	B: Seven	C: Eleven	D: Twelve
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10. In the phrase “Some curious warmth that was almost tangible shone out” what does the term “almost tangible” mean?

A: Close to a shade of orange	B: Had quite a spicy taste
C: Originating from Tangier in Morocco	D: Could nearly be felt

11. What did Miss Honey do before handing Matilda an exercise book?

A: Took the register	B: Checked she had a pencil
C: Described correct behaviour	D: Liquidised a carrot

12. Who might have laughed during the extract?

A: Matilda	B: Jennifer	C: Miss Trunchbull	D: Lavender
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13. The “enraged rhinoceros” is likely to:

A: climb the nearest tree	B: become extinct
C: be angry	D: be bigger than the average rhinoceros

14. In the phrase “when she spoke to a confused and homesick newcomer”, the word “confused” is:

A: a noun	B: an adjective	C: a verb	D: a conjunction
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15. From whose perspective is the extract written?

A: Matilda’s	B: Miss Honey’s	C: Lavender’s	D: Someone else’s
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(15 marks)

END OF SECTION A



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ENGLISH: MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWER SHEET

Question No	Answers (please circle only one letter per row)			
1	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D
6	A	B	C	D
7	A	B	C	D
8	A	B	C	D
9	A	B	C	D
10	A	B	C	D
11	A	B	C	D
12	A	B	C	D
13	A	B	C	D
14	A	B	C	D
15	A	B	C	D

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