



OUNDLÉ

School

2021 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

Section A

Read this extract from “Carol Barking” by Laurie Lee and answer the questions which follow.
You should spend about 35 minutes on this section of the paper.

One by one they came stumbling over the snow, swinging their lanterns around their heads, shouting and coughing horribly.

‘Coming carol-barking then?’

5 We were the Church Choir, so no answer was necessary. For a year we had praised the Lord out of key, and as a reward for this service – on top of the Outing – we now had the right to visit all the big houses, to sing our carols and collect our tribute.

10 Our first call as usual was the house of the Squire, and we tramped nervously down his drive. For light we had candles in marmalade-jars suspended on loops of string, and they threw pale gleams on the towering snowdrifts that stood on each side of the drive. A blizzard was blowing, but we were well wrapped up, with Army puttees on our legs, woollen hats on our heads, and several scarves around our ears.

15 As we approached the Big House across its white silent lawns, we too grew respectfully silent. The lake near by was stiff and black, the waterfall frozen and still. We arranged ourselves shuffling around the big front door, then knocked and announced the Choir.

20 A maid bore the tidings of our arrival away into the echoing distances of the house, and while we waited we cleared our throats noisily. Then she came back, and the door was left ajar for us, and we were bidden to begin. We brought no music, the carols were in our heads. ‘Let’s give ‘em “Wild Shepherds”,’ said Jack. We began in confusion, plunging into a wreckage of keys, of different words and tempo; but we gathered our strength; he who sang loudest took the rest of us with him, and the carol took shape if not sweetness.

25 This huge stone house, with its ivied walls, was always a mystery to us. What were those gables, those rooms and attics, those narrow windows veiled by the cedar trees. As we sang ‘Wild Shepherds’ we craned our necks, gazing into that lamplit hall which we had never entered; staring at the muskets and untenanted chairs, the great tapestries furred by dust – until suddenly, on the stairs, we saw the old Squire himself standing and listening with his head on one side.

30 He didn’t move until we’d finished; then slowly he tottered towards us, dropped two coins in our box with a trembling hand, scratched his name in the book we carried, gave us each a long look with his moist blind eyes, then turned away in silence.

As though released from a spell, we took a few sedate steps, then broke into a run for the gate. We didn’t stop till we were out of the grounds.

Questions:

- 1) Using the description in lines 1 through 6, and thinking about the term “carol barking”, what impressions do you receive about the choir’s tunefulness? [3]

- 2) **Quote** and **explain** THREE words or short phrases **from later in the passage** which also contribute to your view of the choir’s musical expertise. [6]

- 3) What is meant by “to collect our tribute” in Line 6 ? [1]

- 4) Looking at lines 7 to 12, what preparations have the choir made for their expedition and why? [4]

- 5) To which house do the carollers go first and in what state of mind do they troupe down his drive? [2]

- 6) In lines 13-15, what impressions are you given of the winter landscape? [3]

- 7) Explain what impressions we receive of the “Big House” from each of the following descriptive phrases:
 - A. the echoing distances of the house Line 16
 - B. huge stone house, with its ivied walls Line 22
 - C. narrow windows veiled by the cedar trees Line 23
 - D. the muskets and untenanted chairs Line 25
 - E. great tapestries furred by dust Line 25[10]

- 8) With reference to the end of the passage, what do you learn about the Squire himself? Make sure you use short quotations from the passage to support your opinions. [4]

- 9) Looking back at lines 31-32, why do you think that the choir react in this way? [2]

Section B Creative Writing

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

Choose **one** option

You should have about 25 minutes left for this section.

EITHER:

A Write a story about someone who has to spend Christmas alone.

Or

B The storm.

Write a description of a storm. You may choose any season or extreme type of weather. For example, you might choose to describe a spring flood or an autumnal hurricane or a winter blizzard or a thunder and lightning event.

Or

C Write a story inspired by the following picture:

