



BENENDEN

Lower School Scholarship 2023

ENGLISH

13+

1 Hour

Name:
School:
Date:

Instructions to Candidates:

- Write your answers in the space provided in this booklet.
- The total mark for the paper is 100
- The first question is based on a fiction passage; the second question is to demonstrate your own writing skills. Both are worth the same number of marks and you should aim to spend the same amount of time on each.

You should spend 30 minutes on Question 1 and 30 minutes on Question 2. Try to leave some time to read through and check your work thoroughly.

The following is an extract from 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Brontë. Jane-- the narrator-- is a young child who has been put in a dark room as a punishment. She believes that the room is haunted by her dead uncle. Help arrives at the end.

A singular notion dawned upon me. I doubted not—never doubted—that if Mr. Reed had been alive he would have treated me kindly; and now, as I sat looking at the white bed and overshadowed walls—occasionally also turning a fascinated eye towards the dimly gleaming mirror—I began to recall what I had heard of dead men, troubled in their graves by the violation of their last wishes, revisiting the earth to punish the perjured and avenge the oppressed; and I thought Mr. Reed's spirit, harassed by the wrongs of his sister's child, might quit its abode—whether in the church vault or in the unknown world of the departed—and rise before me in this chamber. I wiped my tears and hushed my sobs, fearful lest any sign of violent grief might waken a preternatural voice to comfort me, or elicit from the gloom some haloed face, bending over me with strange pity. This idea, consolatory in theory, I felt would be terrible if realised: with all my might I endeavoured to stifle it—I endeavoured to be firm. Shaking my hair from my eyes, I lifted my head and tried to look boldly round the dark room; at this moment a light gleamed on the wall. Was it, I asked myself, a ray from the moon penetrating some aperture in the blind? No; moonlight was still, and this stirred; while I gazed, it glided up to the ceiling and quivered over my head. I can now conjecture readily that this streak of light was, in all likelihood, a gleam from a lantern carried by some one across the lawn: but then, prepared as my mind was for horror, shaken as my nerves were by agitation, I thought the swift darting beam was a herald of some coming vision from another world. My heart beat thick, my head grew hot; a sound filled my ears, which I deemed the rushing of wings; something seemed near me; I was oppressed, suffocated: endurance broke down; I rushed to the door and shook the lock in desperate effort. Steps came running along the outer passage; the key turned, Bessie and Abbot entered.

1. **How does the writer bring the narrator’s feelings to life in this extract?**
(You may want to think about, for example, his use of specific language or vocabulary, his sentencing, his choice of images or anything else that strikes you as interesting in how it has been written).

(50 marks)

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Total for paper: 100 marks