



# THE PERSE

## UPPER SCHOOL

### CAMBRIDGE

## Year 9 (13+) Entrance Assessments

### Sample English Paper 2

The English paper lasts 45 minutes and is a single task, taken from a choice of two tasks. The task is a creative response to a given passage, and will focus on a pupil's understanding of the passage as well as their creative and writing ability.

#### **Instructions to candidates**

#### **Time allowed: 45 minutes**

1. There is one section to this paper.
2. Remember to plan your answer, but also to leave enough time to write your answer.
3. Please remember that you cannot ask any questions about the paper during the exam.
4. There are **40 marks** available in total.

Read the extract below, and then complete **one** of the two tasks. There are 40 marks available for this task.

20 marks are for the content of your writing, which should demonstrate your understanding of the passage.

20 marks are for the written accuracy and techniques in your writing, including your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

*This extract is from a short story set in the early 1900s, and a boy describes playing in the street with his friends in the winter. He explains how they would hide from family members so that they wouldn't get called in for dinner, and their reactions when they did finally get called in.*

When the short days of winter came, dusk fell before we had eaten our dinners. When we met in the street the houses had grown sombre. The space of sky above us was the colour of ever-changing violet and towards it the lamps of the street lifted their feeble lanterns. The cold air stung us and we played till our bodies glowed. Our shouts echoed in the silent street. The career of our play brought us through the dark muddy lanes behind the houses, where we ran the gauntlet of the rough tribes from the cottages, to the back doors of the dark dripping gardens where odours arose from the ashpits, to the dark odorous stables where a coachman smoothed and combed the horse or shook music from the buckled harness. When we returned to the street, light from the kitchen windows had filled the areas.

If my uncle was seen turning the corner, we hid in the shadow until we had seen him safely housed. Or if Mangan's sister came out on the doorstep to call her brother in to his dinner, we watched her from our shadow peer up and down the street. We waited to see whether she would remain or go in and, if she remained, we left our shadow and walked up to Mangan's steps grudgingly. She was waiting for us, her figure defined by the light from the half-opened door. Her brother always teased her before he obeyed, and I stood by the railings looking at her. Her dress swung as she moved her body, and the soft rope of her hair tossed from side to side.

Tasks – complete **one** of the two tasks below.

EITHER

1) Continue the story from the narrator's point of view, once his friend has gone in for dinner and the narrator is left alone in the street. You don't need to write the entire story, just the next section.

Things you could include might be:

- Describe more of the street setting
- Explore the narrator's feelings
- Describe what the narrator does next [40]

OR

2) As well as the fun the boys appear to have playing together, the passage suggests this is not necessarily a wealthy area to live. Write a description of the inside of the house during dinner time.

Things you could include might be:

- Describe the setting of the inside of the house
- Explore the behaviour of family members during dinner time
- Describe what Mangan does next [40]







