



THE NATIVE ENGLISH SECTION

SIXIÈME ENTRANCE EXAM

There are two Native English classes per year group in the collège. Each class has a maximum of sixteen pupils. Massillon pupils with the required level from the Native Section in the primary school will transfer automatically into the Native Section of the collège. This means that approximately fifteen places are available to external sixième candidates every year.

External pupils hoping to join our Native English Section sit a competitive written entrance examination in November. The exam assesses grammar, reading comprehension skills and writing. The test will last about ninety minutes. We are looking for pupils who in addition to having a native level of spoken English are at ease reading and writing in the language. In sixième our pupils will be expected to read four novels and two plays and it is therefore essential that they have a broad vocabulary base.

Below are details of what candidates can expect to encounter in the entrance exam, with suggestions for further reading for parents and carers who would like to support their children as they prepare.

GRAMMAR

Sample Questions

A) Use a **conjunction** to combine the phrases below to make one sentence.

Example: *I do not like playing tennis. I love trampolining.* → *I do not like playing tennis **but** I love trampolining.*

- Sue and Rita were friends. They were rivals too.
- Dad wasn't paying attention. He was busy.

B) Write a phrase containing a **possessive apostrophe** for each of the statements below.

- The pen belonging to the teacher.
- The toys belonging to the girls.
- Use an apostrophe to shorten words in each of the sentences below.
- She did not like the smell.
- The bus will not start.

C) Write a list of ingredients for your favourite sandwich. Remember to use a colon and commas to separate items in the list.

Suggested practice material: Homework Helpers English Essentials 9+ Key Stage 2 ISBN: 978-1-84958-662-7

READING COMPREHENSION

Candidates will be given several short texts to read and will then have to answer questions. Some of these questions will be multiple choice, others will require longer answers. Please see the extract from *I'm Telling You They're Aliens* by Jeremy Strong and the sample questions below.

The trouble is, people think you're very strange if you go round saying things about alien invasions, and if you're not very careful they come and take you away and lock you up and feed you on things like rice pudding (which I hate).

So who do you tell? Do you go to the police? Do you tell the kids in your class? They already think I'm half-mad anyway, and they wouldn't listen to me anyhow, not after that episode with the non-existent asteroid.

I decided to keep quiet. I thought I'd keep a low profile, pretend there was nothing wrong; but all the time be on the lookout, watching for clues. I had already discovered that there were four of them altogether and now I had to find out what kind of aliens they were and why they had come to Planet Earth.

Actually the answer to that question was pretty obvious. Aliens only come to Earth for one reason, and that is to take it over, to invade every bit of it. Everyone knows that. I mean, they're not likely to drive halfway across the universe just to ask if they can borrow some sugar.

By this time you will probably have worked out for yourself that I hadn't taken my last breath and died, otherwise I wouldn't be able to write this down for you. Evidently the aliens were not going to use a deadly virus. They had some other plan up their sleeve... assuming aliens have sleeves. If they don't, then what can they hide things up? Their nostrils? Armpits? Ears? I seem to be going off-track here a bit.

You can imagine my surprise, and my rampaging feelings, when Mum made the following announcement, shortly after lunch. "I've met the new neighbours," she said. They seem nice. I've asked them over for a cup of coffee this afternoon, so we can meet the family."

The aliens are coming to our house – for tea and biscuits!

From *I'm Telling You They're Aliens* by Jeremy Strong

Text taken from Schofield & Sims Key Stage 2 Comprehension Book 1

Sample Questions

A. This story is written in (ring one):

The first person

The third person

B. What phrase indicates the point at which the narrator **stops** using the present tense and **starts** using the past tense? Quote the first **five** words of the phrase in your answer.

C. A rhetorical question is a question where the speaker does not expect an answer. Give one example of a rhetorical question from the text.

D. Explain what the word 'invade' means.

E. If aliens would not come 'halfway across the universe just to ask if they can borrow some sugar', who do you think might make such a request and where would they come from?

F. The phrase 'going off track' means (ring one):

- i) digesting
- ii) digressing
- iii) diluting

WRITING

During the last part of the exam, candidates will be asked to write a story. They should aim to write about one A4 page. They should be familiar with how to use a writing frame and learning how to insert interesting vocabulary into blanks in sentences.

For example:

The _____ was _____ around me. A few metres in front of me I could see _____ and above me _____.

Story topics could include things like getting lost, having a surprise visitor or finding a mystery object.

Suggested practice material: Collins Key Stage 2 National Test Revision English Ages 10-11

ISBN 978-0-00-717599-4

Useful websites for ordering practice material:

www.collinseducation.com

www.dk.com

www.schofieldandsims.co.uk

www.autumnchildrensbooks.co.uk
