



Bancroft's

Independent Co-educational Day School 7–18

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Sample Paper

11+

English

Entrance Examination

Bancroft's

11+ Entrance Examinations

Guidance Notes for Parents

English

Candidates will take an English test in **two sections**. There is no separate Scholarship paper.

Section A: Reading and Understanding (45 Minutes)

The children will be asked to read two or more passages in a reading booklet and then answer questions on what they have read in a separate answer book. There are a few questions, which call for longer answers. There will also be a few multiple-choice questions. The design of the answer book indicates the type of answer required.

Questions will test a variety of comprehension skills, such as the understanding of the vocabulary, sentence structure and inferred meaning.

Section B: Writing (5 Minutes planning + 15 Minutes writing)

The children will be given an essay title asking them to take some of the ideas from the extract or poem in the Reading Booklet and develop them into their own story or description.

Marks are earned by writing relevantly and showing originality and accuracy; punctuation, spelling and grammar are all important here. They are also awarded for how well the essay is organised and how interesting it is in content.

Preparation:

Children who are familiar with the format of the Key Stage Two tests should not need any preparation other than working through the two sample papers.

B a n c r o f t ' s



Entrance Examination - English
2018

Reading Booklet

This booklet contains two pieces of writing:

On pages 1 - 2 there is a passage called **A Trip to the Sweet Shop**.

Read this passage and then answer the questions in **Part 1** of your answer book.

On page 3 you will find a poem called **The Childminders**.

Read the poem and then answer the questions in **Part 2** of your answer book.

A Trip to the Sweet Shop

The narrator, Rahul, has reluctantly had to take his cousins Pinky and Baby out to play with him and his friend Anita.

I pulled Pinky to one side and hissed in her ear, "You can come with us, right, but don't say nothin' and don't do nothing and don't show me up, got it?" Pinky swallowed and nodded.

5 Anita and I sauntered down the hill, past the terraced houses and overflowing gardens where the occasional OAP would lift her head from her sunflowers and ornamental wells to nod at us as we passed. Their gazes lingered a little longer on Pinky and Baby who I could hear pitter-pattering behind us at a respectable distance, and to my annoyance, I could feel the pensioners sigh and beam at my cousins in approval, uplifted by this vision of pretty little
10 sisters in matching separates and coordinated dimples.

We paused, as we always did, outside Mr Ormerod's shop window and shared a reverential moment of worship, faced with the tempting array of sweets which shamelessly flaunted themselves at us from the safety of their fat glass jars . I waited for Anita to go inside, as she always did, and wondered where
15 she got the money from for the sticky picnic we would always share in the long grass in the meadow.

"No, you come in as well, Rahul,' Anita said. I shot Pinky and Baby a Stay There glance but they ignored it, and followed us in warily, still holding hands.

Mr Ormerod was shuffling around in the back room of the shop; when he
20 spoke his voice sounded strained as if he were lifting something heavy.

"Be with you in a tick!" he shouted cheerily.

Anita quickly leaned over the shop counter and grabbed handfuls of the loose confectionery that was always laid out in a small wooden tray, each assortment in its own snug box - cherry lips, sherbet flying saucers, chocolate
25 spanners, edible necklaces made up of tiny pastel-coloured discs, white mice with licorice whiskers. All of them disappeared into the depths of Anita's cardigan pockets and for the first time, I realised why she wore these voluminous woollies.

30 "Go on, Rahul!" she hissed, indicating I should help myself while the coast was clear.

I glanced at Pinky and Baby who were staring at Anita as if she'd just deposited a dead rat on top of the shop counter. Pinky had a whole fist stuffed in her mouth, the other hand was clamped over Baby's eyes, and both of them looked close to tears. My hand hovered over a pile of marzipan bananas. I did
35 not know why it trembled so much. And then suddenly Mr Ormerod appeared from the back room and I confidently picked up a banana from the top of the heap and laid it before him. He examined it quizzically. It looked ridiculous and lonely, a single, unnatural smear on his sparkling glass counter. He looked up slowly at me, his eyes hardening.

40 "This all you want?"

"Yes please, Mr Ormerod," I said confidently. I did not dare to look at Anita who was standing, legs apart, hands in her pockets, feeling her sweets, a knowing grin plastered on her face.

45 Mr Ormerod swivelled round to face her and his polite smile became an obvious sneer. "Don't suppose you will be buying anything, will you, Miss Anita Rutter?"

"Nah, got no money have I, Mr Ormerod," she grinned back.

50 A muscle in Mr Ormerod's cheek began twitching slightly, he gripped the edge of the counter for a moment and the tips of his heavy ears went bright red. He was looking straight at Anita's bulging pockets and she knew he was; she was daring him to challenge her. Mr Ormerod was having a crisis, that much was obvious: he was torn between his desperation to be the most holy and charitable man in town and the desire he now felt to smack Anita Rutter into the middle of next week.

The Childminders

A child is taken by her parents to see if two possible childminders will be suitable.

I was six when I went to see
if a brace of* childminders *two
Would suit small me.

5 They lived where the sun
couldn't quite reach.
A corner house. Number 101.

One childminder was tall, stooped, thin,
and three or four teeth
short of a grin*.

*lacking enough teeth to form a grin

10 Childminder Two was of smaller build,
with boiled red eyes.
My blood chilled.

They had one toy. They had one book.
They said: *Here, little girl,*
15 *have a good look.*

The toy was a broken clockwork mouse.
The book was as dusty
as the gloomy house.

20 *I'm afraid I won't require you,* I smiled
and backed away. Then I saw,
to my horror, a skeletal child -

slumped in the corner, bored to death.
There but for the grace of god...
I thought, and left.

B a n c r o f t ' s



Entrance Examination - English

2018

Reading and Understanding - Section A

Answer Book

My first name is:

My last name is:

My date of birth is:

The school I go to is:

Mark

Section A: Reading & Understanding

You have a total of 45 minutes for this test.

There are different types of questions.

The space given for your answer shows you how you need to answer each question:

For some questions you must write only one word or phrase.

Other questions need longer answers in one or more sentences.

A few questions ask you to write at greater length.

- The number of marks available for each question will also show you how many points you need to make.

Try to answer all the questions.

Write neatly.

If you finish within the allocated time, go back and check your answers.

A new answer booklet will be issued for Section B - Writing

Part 1

These questions refer to the passage called ***A Trip to the Sweet Shop*** which is on pages 1-2 of your reading booklet. The narrator, Rahul, is the boy who is telling the story. You will probably need about 30 minutes for this section.

1. What does the narrator do to Pinky before he hisses in her ear?

_____ (1)

2. Look at line 2. Name two things which the narrator warns Pinky not to do.

(2)

3. Look at line 7. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to "pitter-pattering"? Tick one.

Talking _____

Walking _____

Laughing _____

Drumming _____

(1)

4. Look at lines 8-10. How do the local pensioners feel about Pinky and Baby and why? Use your own words where possible.

(2)

5. Look at lines 11-14. How do the children seem to feel about the contents of Mr Ormerod's shop window?

(2)

6. In line 17-18, what is meant by "I shot Pinky and Baby a Stay There glance"?

(2)

7. Which of the following phrases is closest in meaning to "voluminous woollies" (line 28)? Tick one.

Baggy knitted clothing

Large balls of wool

Huge wellington boots

Cotton buds which make a noise

(1)

8. Look at lines 31-34. How do the twins, Pinky and Baby, feel about Anita stealing the sweets and how do we know?

(4)

9. Look at lines 34-37 from "My hand hovered..." to "sparkling glass counter". Do you think the narrator really wants the marzipan banana? Give a reason for your answer.

(2)

10. Give one word or phrase of your own for the word "quizzically" in line 37.

(1)

11. Looking mainly at lines 37-54, do you think that Mr Ormerod is going to accuse Anita of stealing sweets or not? Give reasons for your answer. You may want to write about:

- Anita's behaviour
- how Mr Ormerod seems to feel towards her.

(4)

12. Looking at the whole passage, what do we learn about the relationship between the narrator and Anita? Give your reasons.

You might want to write about:

- the influence Anita has on Rahul
- how he seems to feel towards her
- how she seems to feel towards him.

(4)

Now go straight on to Part 2

Part 2

These questions are about the poem *The Childminders* on page 3 of your reading booklet. A child is being taken by her parents to visit possible childminders. You will probably need to spend about 15 minutes on this section.

13. Look at lines 1-3 of the poem. Where does the narrator go and why?

(2)

14. Look at lines 4-5. What do you think "they lived where the sun couldn't quite reach" means, and what does it suggest about the atmosphere in the house?

(3)

15. Look at lines 7-11. What is frightening about how the childminders look and why?

(4)

16. Give one word or phrase of your own for "my blood chilled" (line 12)

(1)

17. Look at lines 13-18. Give two reasons why the narrator might find the toy and the book so unappealing.

(2)

18. Looking back at the poem as a whole, do you think this is a serious or an amusing poem, or both? Use your own words, try not to repeat anything you have written before, and refer to examples in the poem.

(4)

*If you have finished, go back and check your answers until instructed to begin
Section B, the Writing Test*

B a n c r o f t ' s



Entrance Examination - English

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Writing – Section – B

Answer Book

My first name is:

My last name is:

My date of birth is:

The school I go to is:

Mark

Section B: Writing

You have 20 minutes for this test.

You should use about 5 minutes for planning and 15 minutes for writing.

You will be awarded marks for organising your writing well and making the essay interesting.

Be careful with spelling, punctuation and paragraphing; you will earn more marks if your writing is accurate.

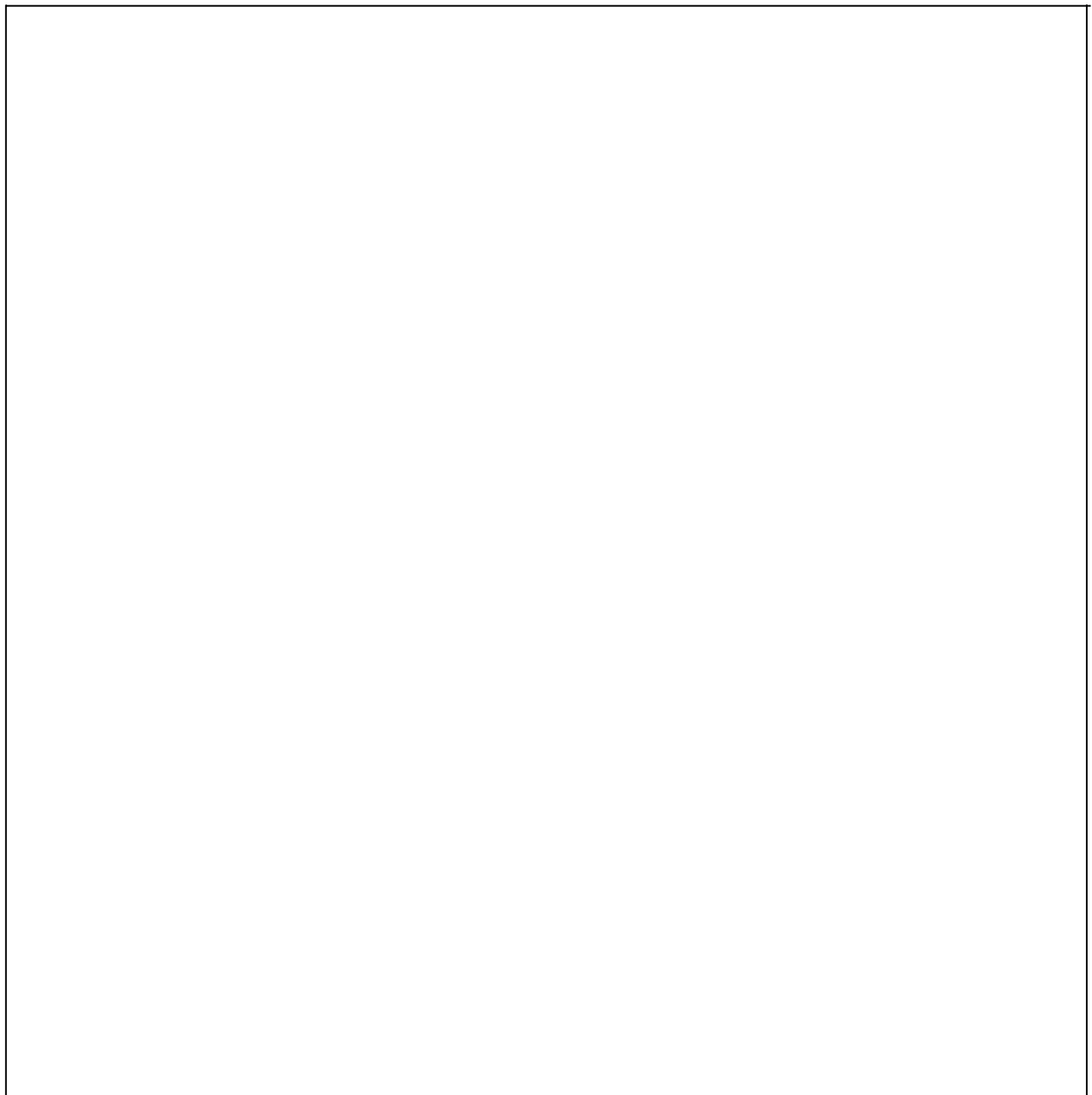
Use all of the time allowed.

Write about a time when Anita dares Rahul to be the thief- this time in a different shop. You might like to explore his thoughts, feelings and fears, as well as writing about the events which follow the dare.

You may write as Rahul, or as another character in your story, or as a third-person narrator.

(20 marks)

Use the box below to plan your essay



Writing

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]