

ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (example paper)

DURATION: 1 HOUR

The paper is in two sections. Each section is worth fifteen marks.
Spend thirty minutes on each section.

Answer all of the questions in Section A and only one from Section B.

Try to save some time at the end to check over your work for mistakes.

SECTION A

Answer all of the questions in this section.

This extract is taken from the novel *Fleshmarket* (2003). The passage describes a chase in which the hero of the novel, Robbie, is pursued by the nineteenth century grave robbers Burke and Hare.

Uphill now, heading into the sun. The castle swayed over him, as if it must surely topple. Still, he ran. His tongue stuck dry to the roof of his mouth. A pain in his side now. And in his hand. Empty weakening legs. His breath in tightened gasps. He must not stop.

Footsteps still behind him.

He slowed to swing round another corner. As he turned, he glimpsed their snarling faces. Saw the thick club in Hare's hand. They were closer. How could they still be there? Would they never tire? He could hear their laboured breathing, imagine Hare's evil spittle on his neck. They were going to catch him. Any moment now. The air like knives inside his chest.

It happened in an instant. As he swung round another corner. In front of him. A man, old, holding a pistol. His startled oyster-pale eyes. Robbie dodging, twisting. Slipping. Falling. A sickening rip in his bandaged hand. A crack as his head hit the wall. Black.

1. Where does the scene take place? (1)
2. Read the opening paragraph and list two problems that Robbie faces that make his escape difficult. (2)
3. Read the paragraph that starts, "He slowed to swing...." Comment on why you think the author chooses to use the following effects, providing examples to support your point.
 - Lots of questions
 - Lots of very short, simple sentences. (4)
4. Find an example of a simile in the passage and comment on how it helps you to imagine the thing being described. (2)
5. How does the author make the men chasing Robbie seem terrifying? Be sure to support your points with evidence from the passage. (6)

SECTION B

Answer only one of the following questions.

1. Imagine you are the author of Robbie's adventure and write the next paragraph of the story (15).
2. Write a description of an experience that you have had when you were very frightened (15).