



11+ English Entrance Examination

Paper 6

Total Marks: 55

Time Allowed: 1 hour

Section A - Reading

The extract is taken from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, published in 1843. In this extract, we are introduced to one of the main characters in the story: Ebenezer Scrooge.

Paragraph 1:

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

Paragraph 2:

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often "came down" handsomely, and Scrooge never did.

Paragraph 3:

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, “My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?” No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o’clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. Even the blind men’s dogs appeared to know him; and when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, “No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!”

Paragraph 4:

But what did Scrooge care! It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call “nuts” to Scrooge.

Paragraph 5:

Once upon a time—of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve—old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal: and he could hear the people in the court outside, go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them. The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already—it had not been light all day—and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.

Questions

Read the passage carefully then answer the questions below. Remember to write your answers as full sentences. You should spend about 30 minutes on this section.

1. Look at paragraph 1. Give three details about Scrooge's appearance.

(3 Marks)

2. Look at paragraph 1. Find and copy a simile used in the text. Explain what your chosen simile tells us about Scrooge's personality.

Simile: _____ (1 Mark)

Explanation: _____

(1 Mark)

3. 'He carried his own low temperature always about with him' (paragraph 1). What does this phrase tell the reader about Scrooge's personality?

(1 Mark)

4. Look at paragraphs 1 - 3. Find four words or phrases which suggest that Scrooge is a lonely man.

(4 Marks)

5. In your own words, explain the meanings of these phrases:

- a) 'External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge.' (paragraph 2)

(1 Mark)

- b) 'To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance.' (paragraph 4)

(1 Mark)

6. Look at the line: '...the houses opposite were mere phantoms.' (paragraph 5).

- a) What technique does the author use here?

(1 Mark)

- b) What image does this create for the reader?

(1 Mark)

7. Look at paragraph 5. How does the weather reflect Scrooge's character? Explain your answer, using quotations from the text.

(4 Marks)

8. In paragraph 5, the text says: ...'but it was quite dark already—it had not been light all day.'
Why do you think it had been dark all day in the city?

_____ (1 Mark)

9. Give a word or phrase that means the same as:

- a) Foul _____ (1 Mark)
- b) Implored _____ (1 Mark)
- c) Dense _____ (1 Mark)
- d) Obscuring _____ (1 Mark)

10. Write out the following extract with the correct spelling and punctuation:

It was christmas eve and the hole city was preparing for the next day. People hurried excitedly around the streets, buying food decorations and gifts. Children hung there stockings on the ends of beds, waiting impatiently for the day too arrive.

(7 Marks)