



ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE  
HALF YEARLY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS

February 2016

YEAR 4

ENGLISH

TIME: 1hr 15 min

(Reading Comprehension, Language, and Writing)

Marking Scheme

A. Reading Comprehension

(20 marks)

1. Tick (✓) the correct answer:

(4 × 1 = 4 marks)

a. One of the most popular pets in the world is

1. the hamster.	
2. the goldfish.	
3. the cat.	✓

b. You can train your cat to

1. bring back a toy mouse.	✓
2. brush your hair.	
3. cook dinner.	

c. In the fifth paragraph, the words '*to keep noise to a minimum*' mean

1. to make as much noise as possible.	
2. to make as little noise as possible.	✓
3. to make no noise at all.	

d. A cat cleans its fur by

1. taking a shower.	
2. soaking in the bathtub.	
3. licking itself.	✓

2. Write **TRUE** or **FALSE** next to each sentence. (5 × 1 = 5 marks)

a.	Cats find it hard to find their way in the dark.	False
b.	The senses of smell and hearing are powerful in a cat.	True
c.	Cats are good hunters.	True
d.	Cats keep themselves very dirty.	False
e.	Cats hate sitting on someone's lap.	False

**Award marks for comprehension.**

**No marks are to be deducted for punctuation, spelling and tense mistakes in questions a to f. Deduct ½ mark for every incomplete answer and incorrect syntax. (Not more than ½ mark per sentence is to be deducted.)**

3. Answer the following questions. (11 marks)

a. What do cats use their whiskers for? Name **two** things. (2 marks)

i. They learn about the weather/ They can tell if it is hot or cold, wet or dry.

ii. Their whiskers help them to find their way in the dark.

b. Name **two** things cats like to play with. (2 marks)

i. (They play with) balls.

ii. (They play with) string.

**Award full marks if the student only writes the words 'balls' and 'string'.**

c. Explain how cats walk silently. (2 marks)

Their back paws step almost exactly in the same place as the front paws.

d. According to the passage you can either buy a cat from a pet shop or get one from the animal sanctuary. (1 mark)

e. From the passage find two words that describe cats. (2 marks)

Accept: amazing; popular; sneaky; soft, warm; good hunters.

f. Do you think cats are happier at home or out on the streets? Why? (2 marks)

They are happier on the streets because they are free to do what they like.

They are happier at home because they are well-cared for and loved.

**Accept any other answer as long as it is justified.**

**B. Language (10 marks)**

**B. 1. Read the following and fill in the blanks. Use the words in brackets. (5 x 1 mark = 5 marks)**

**Any spelling mistake forfeits the mark.**

colder.

drier.

higher.

windier.

deeper.

**B. 2. Fill in the blanks with the correct noun. (5 × 1 mark = 5 marks)**  
**Any spelling mistake forfeits the mark.**

- b. Cars go faster than motorcycles.
- c. This peach tastes really good.
- d. The policeman catches thieves.
- e. Crocodiles are the best hunters found in rivers.
- f. A snow leopard lives in the mountains.

**C. WRITING (30 marks)**

**C. 1 (5 marks)**

**Deduct ½ mark overall for any spelling mistakes.**  
**Deduct 1 mark overall for any punctuation mistakes or omissions.**  
**Award marks for suitable and grammatically correct sentences.**

**C. 2 (5 × 1 = 5 marks)**

**Deduct ½ mark if words are spelt incorrectly.**

How to brush your teeth

- 2. Brush the insides of your teeth.
- 3. Make sure you brush up and down every tooth.
- 4. Brush your teeth at least twice every day.
- 5. You should brush your teeth when you wake up and before going to bed.
- 6. Do not use your toothbrush for longer than six months.

## C. Composition

(20 marks)

In not less than **90 words** write **ten sentences** or a **paragraph** on **ONE** of the following:

### 1. How I spend Saturday

Write about what you do when you wake up on Saturday morning; where you go; whom you meet; how you spend the rest of the day.....

2. **Imagine you are a butterfly.** Describe yourself; say how you spend your days; which places you visit; what kind of flowers you like and why.

3. **Look at the picture and describe what is happening in the picture.**  
You can use these words: (holiday, park, pond, feeding, pointing, fun).



The mark is to be an impression mark to check the student's ability to write correct sentence structures and a choice and range of vocabulary. The writing should have correct spelling, punctuation and an orderly presentation.

<b>VERY GOOD</b>	Planning is detailed and relevant. The writing shows the development of the theme. Detail and sequence are managed well. Ideas are organised appropriately and used effectively. The writing presents confident sentence structures, choice and range of vocabulary, style and skill in communicating. Accurate writing places the creative writing high up on the band.
<b>SATISFACTORY</b>	Planning has some details and most of the details are relevant. The writing shows competence in the use of language to communicate. The writing is coherent with ideas or events logically related. The approach used might not be that exciting or original. Most sentences are correctly demarcated showing an understanding of sentence structures and fairly valid punctuation usage. There are mistakes, perhaps occasional gross ones, but not so many as to affect comprehension, or create incoherence.
<b>POOR</b>	Planning has very few details and most of the details are irrelevant. The writing shows some awareness of the basic knowledge of creative writing, but it contains parts that show a significant inability to communicate immediately with the reader. Capital letters and full stops sometimes demarcate the ideas and sentences, but there are too many mistakes in sentence structure, spelling, punctuation and idiom, making communication nearly or almost impossible.

**While correcting follow the following procedure:**

(i) On a rough sheet list strengths and weaknesses along these lines:

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
presentation / logical sequence sentence structure	punctuation, spelling some obscurity

(ii) In the light of your assessment of work as a whole, and taking into account:

a) content,                      b) expression,                      c) accuracy,

place the writing in one of the three main bands on the grid below; then using your rough strengths / weaknesses list, place the writing in the appropriate sub-band on the band chosen.

**This should give a fairly standardised mark for the compositions.**

<b>VERY GOOD</b>	<b>Competent</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>SATISFACTORY</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>POOR</b>	<b>Weak</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Very weak</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

*Writing which is “Out of point” or “Obviously memorised” should be penalised by starting at 9 marks respectively. Assessment is then at the marker’s discretion.*