



ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE
HALF YEARLY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS

February 2016

YEAR 6

ENGLISH

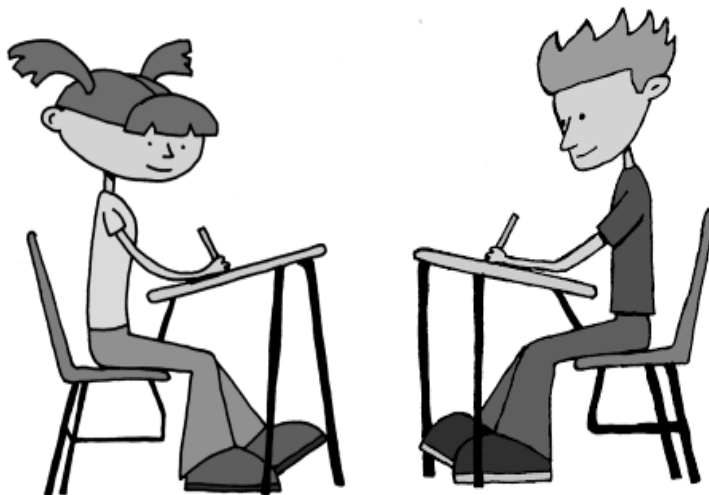
TIME: 50 mins

(English Reading Comprehension)

Total:

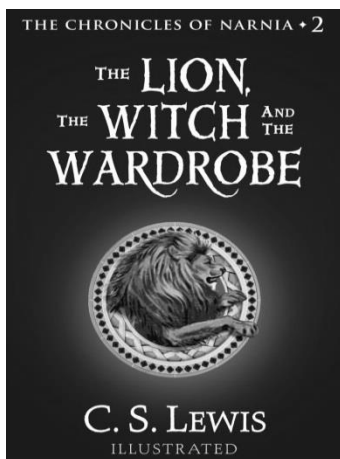
30

Name and Surname: _____ Class: _____



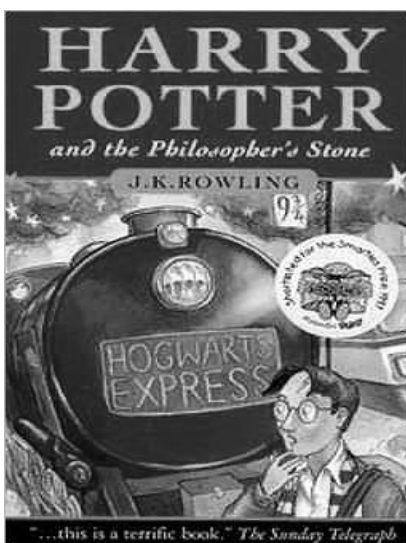
Read carefully at the two book reviews below.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis



Lucy is the first to find the secret of the wardrobe in the professor's mysterious old house. At first her brothers and sister don't believe her when she tells of her visit to the land of Narnia. But soon Edmund, Peter and Susan step through the wardrobe themselves. In Narnia they find a country buried under the evil enchantment of the White Witch.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling



Harry Potter thinks he is an ordinary boy - until he is rescued by a beetle-eyed giant of a man, enrolls at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, learns to play Quidditch and does battle in a deadly duel. The reason... Harry Potter is a Wizard! Follow the adventures of Harry Potter as he discovers the magical, the dangerous, the unpredictable world of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Now answer the questions below.

1. **Underline the correct answer.**

(2 marks)

- (a) Lucy was the first person to find the secret of (the land, Edmund, the wardrobe).
- (b) There was a (country, field, volcano) buried in Narnia.
- (c) Harry Potter is a (magician, wizard, teacher).
- (d) Harry learns to play (Judo, beetle, Quidditch).

2. **True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG).**

Read the following sentences. Tick (✓) the correct box.

(2 marks)

		T	F	NIG
a.	The two books are quite short.			
b.	John Sparrow is one of the authors.			
c.	The names of the children are Susan, Peter and Edmund.			
d.	J. K. Rowling is the author of the first book.			

3. If you had to choose **ONE** of these books, which one would you choose and why?

(2 marks)

Read the following text, which is divided into two sections. Then, answer the questions that follow each section.

Section 1

Long ago, the Swiss people were governed by a foreign tyrant called Gessler. He was always trying to humiliate the people. One day, he placed his hat on a high pole in a town square. People had to bow to the hat as they walked by. If they did not do so, they would be instantly imprisoned.

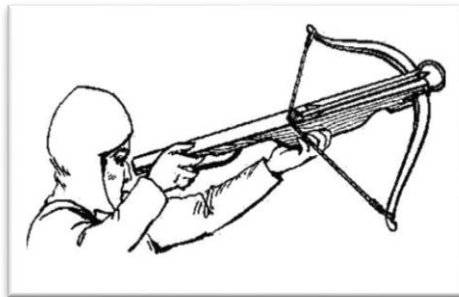
(paragraph 1)

Now William Tell was a proud and **brave** man. He simply strode past the hat looking straight ahead. A soldier stopped him and his young son who was with him.

'Bow!' bellowed the soldier, gripping his shoulder. William Tell shook himself loose.

'Never!' he replied. 'I am a free man. I shall never bow to a hat!'

(paragraph 2)



At this moment Gessler came riding by. A large crowd gathered to see what would happen. 'And who are you?' asked Gessler. 'Who dares to defy my authority?' 'William Tell,' was the quiet and confident answer.

Gessler had heard of William Tell. He knew he was a famous hunter and the best shot with a crossbow in the whole of Switzerland. He thought he would play a cruel game.

(paragraph 3)

'Is this your son?' he asked.

William Tell nodded. 'Then let me see how good a marksman you are. Your boy will stand against that oak tree. I shall place an apple on his head. You will shoot it off - from here!' The distance was great. 'If you fail, you shall die!' Gessler laughed loudly. The crowd fell silent.

'Kill me now, then,' replied William Tell, 'for I shall not shoot at my own son'.

(paragraph 4)

Questions on Section 1

(9 marks)

1. True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG). (2 marks)

Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box.

		T	F	NIG
a.	Gessler was the name of a cruel Swiss ruler.			
b.	Gessler punished people who bowed to the hat.			
c.	The soldier who stopped William Tell was his friend.			
d.	Gessler had met William Tell before.			

2. Underline the best answer. (2 marks)

a. Gessler put a (hat, cap, bonnet) on a pole.

b. The word 'brave' means (weak, intelligent, courageous).

3. Write down **TWO** things that William Tell was famous for. (2 marks)

(a) _____

(b) _____

4. (a) Which word in **paragraph 2** has the same meaning as 'shouted'?

_____ (½ mark)

(b) Which word in **paragraph 3** is the opposite of 'obey'?

_____ (½ mark)

5. What cruel game did Gessler play on William Tell? (2 marks)

Section 2

But the boy just smiled.

'Don't worry, Father. You can do this easily. You never miss a target. I shall keep very still.'



He walked to the tree. William Tell chose two arrows. One he put in his belt. The other he fitted to his bow. He took careful aim and shot the arrow. It flew straight to the target as the boy had predicted, and split the apple neatly in two. **(paragraph 5)**

A great cheer went up from the crowd. Gessler was furious, but tried to stay calm by asking a question. He turned to William Tell,

'Tell me, why did you put a second arrow in your belt?'

William Tell looked Gessler straight in the eye. 'If my first arrow had harmed as much as a hair of my son's head, the second would have instantly pierced your heart.'

Gessler shook with rage at these defiant words. He turned to the guards, 'Seize him! Bind him! Take him to prison!'

There was a murmur of anger among the crowd, but they were powerless to do anything. **(paragraph 6)**

The prison was on the other side of a great lake. On the way across the lake, a storm broke out. The guards undid William Tell's rope so he could help row the boat. But he jumped overboard with his oar and, despite the storm, he clung onto it, and managed to reach the shore. Later, he gathered a band of followers **who** fought against Gessler. Gessler was killed, and the Swiss became free. **(paragraph 7)**

No one is sure whether these events really took place or if it is just a legend, but the tale of William Tell and the apple is now well known in countries throughout Europe. **(paragraph 8)**

(Adapted from *William Tell* by Sebastian Munster)

Questions on Section 2

(11 marks)

6. 'William Tell chose two arrows. One he put in his belt.' Where did he put the second one? (1 mark)

7. Why do you think that the crowd cheered? (1 mark)

8. Why did Gessler shake with rage? (1 mark)

9. Why did the guards release William Tell? (1 mark)

10. How did William Tell manage to escape? (1 mark)

11. Write down one word from **paragraph 5** which shows that the boy knew what would happen. (1 mark)

12. Find a word from **paragraph 6** that means 'made a hole in it'. (1 mark)

13. The word 'who' in **paragraph 7** refers to _____

(1 mark)

14. True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG).

Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box. (2 marks)

		T	F	NIG
a.	The crowd supported William Tell.			
b.	William Tell was sure he would not hit his son.			
c.	Gessler was killed by an arrow.			
d.	While the soldiers and William Tell were crossing the lake, the weather was fine.			

15. Which sentence, in this section, shows that William Tell really loved his son? (1 mark)

Questions on the two sections. (4 marks)

16. Do you think William Tell knew that he should bow to the hat? Give reasons for your answer. (2 marks)

17. Do you think this story really happened? Why? (2 marks)

End Of Paper