



ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE  
HALF-YEARLY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS  
FEBRUARY 2014

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YEAR 5

ENGLISH

TIME: 1hr 15min

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 60 marks

Total Mark



A. Reading Comprehension

(20 marks)

Read the following passage carefully:

THE VANISHING MOON



It was a fine, warm, starlit night. Darkness swallowed up the land, and ahead of them, behind them, to the left and to the right of them stretched nothing but water. Now and then the lights of a ship winked on the waves. Seabirds flew by, squawking in alarm at the sight of Firedrake.

Just after midnight, Sorrel suddenly gave a terrified shriek and bent over the dragon's neck. "Firedrake!" she called. "Firedrake! Have you seen the moon?"

"What about it?" asked the dragon. All this time his eyes had been fixed on the waves below, but now he looked up. What he saw made his wings feel as heavy as lead.

"What is it?" Ben leaned over Sorrel's shoulder in alarm.

"The moon," she cried frantically. "It's turning red."

Now Ben saw it, too. The moon was indeed taking on a tinge of coppery red. "What does it mean?" he asked, baffled.

"It means it'll disappear any moment now!" cried Sorrel. "There's going to be an eclipse of the moon! Now, of all times!" She gazed down at the crashing, foaming waves in terror.



Firedrake was flying more and more slowly, his wings beating as sluggishly as if invisible weights hung from them.

"You're flying too low, Firedrake!" called Sorrel.

"I can't help it!" the dragon called back to her wearily. "I'm as weak as a duckling, Sorrel!"

Firedrake dropped lower and lower. Ben could already taste the salty sea spray on his lips. And then, in the last red glow of light cast on the waves by the fading moon, he suddenly saw a chain of small islands rising from the sea in the distance. Strange islands they were, rising humpbacked from the water like half-submerged hills.

"Firedrake!" shouted Ben as loud as he could. "Look there, ahead of us! I can see islands. Try to land on one of them."



At that very moment the earth's dark shadow engulfed the moon. Firedrake plummeted from the sky like a bird winged by a shot, but the first of the strange islands was already below him. The dragon fell rather than landed on the island. His riders were almost wrenched from their straps. Ben realised he was trembling all over, and Sorrel wasn't doing much better. But Firedrake let himself sink to the ground with a sigh, folded his wings, and licked the salt water off his paws.

*(Adapted from **Dragon Rider** by Cornelia Funke)*

1. Tick ✓ to show the correct answer:

i) Firedrake was a:

*(1 mark)*

- a) giant bird
- b) winged horse
- c) talking dragon
- d) magic plane

a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	

ii) At the time of the eclipse they were flying over:

*(1 mark)*

- a) a peaceful lake
- b) the calm sea
- c) a foaming river
- d) the turbulent sea

a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	

2. Underline the best answer to complete each sentence. (3 marks)

- a) The seabirds were (excited, terrified, angry) when they saw Firedrake.
- b) The dragon slowed down because he (wanted to see the eclipse, couldn't do otherwise, decided to stop for a rest).
- c) As soon as they landed, Ben realised that he was (shaking, hurt, sinking).

3. Tick (✓) to show whether the sentence is True or False: (3 marks)

		True	False
a)	Firedrake was flying in the air.	✓	
b)	There were no stars in the sky that night.		
c)	Sorrel warned the others about the eclipse.		
d)	The dragon began to soar towards the moon.		
e)	Ben noticed just one island in the distance.		
f)	The moon vanished just before midnight.		
g)	The riders were tied to the dragon by straps.		

4. How did Sorrel realise that there was going to be an eclipse of the moon? (1 mark)

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5. Was she pleased about it? How do you know? (2 marks)

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6. Mention **two things** that happened to Firedrake as soon as the moonlight started fading. (2 marks)

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Where did Ben tell Firedrake to try to land? (2 marks)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Find and copy the sentence from the passage that shows that Ben and Sorrel landed with a very big jolt. (1 mark)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Which of the **underlined words** in the passage have a meaning **similar** to the words in column A? (Note: There are **two extra** underlined words in the passage.)

	Column A	Word in the passage
a)	disappearing	<i>fading</i>
b)	fell	
c)	madly	
d)	puzzled	
e)	shout	

(4 marks)



B. Language

(10 marks)

B.1 Underline the correct word or group of words. The first one is ready.

Uncle Rick

My Uncle Rick is a (reporter, librarian). He writes articles for an international magazine. He travels to many different countries while on the job. Last month he (spend, spent) two weeks in Africa touring the



Serengeti Region. Uncle Rick told me that the Serengeti ecosystem is one of the (oldest, older) on Earth. There you can find the greatest and most varied collection of terrestrial wildlife on this planet.

Next week he (will be, went) visiting Mount Teide, which is an active volcano located in the centre of the island of Tenerife. Mount Teide is the third largest volcano in the world from its base, after only Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa in Hawaii. In Teide National Park Uncle Rick is going to follow a (herd, team) of researchers who intend to test a method for looking for life on Mars. This is possible (so that, because) the environmental conditions and geological formations in these locations are very similar.






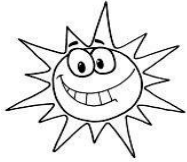
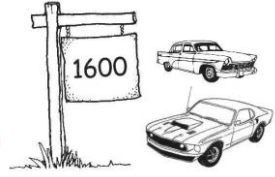


I get really (excited, exciting) when Uncle Rick returns from his journeys because he always has so (many, much) to tell me and his photographs are all so beautiful! I (never, often) get bored in his company and my greatest wish is to become a reporter just like him one day.



*( $\frac{1}{2}$  mark each = 4 marks)*

**B.2 First look at the pictures.**

Then fill in the blanks with **ONE** word from the brackets to complete the sentences.

<p><b>Example:</b> It <u>doesn't</u> rain everyday. (hasn't, isn't, doesn't)</p>	<p>✗ </p>
<p>a) You _____ eat too many sweets. (shouldn't, haven't, should)</p>	<p>✗ </p>
<p>b) The castle _____ built on a hill. (will, was, has)</p>	<p>✓ </p>
<p>c) It _____ be sunny tomorrow. (wouldn't, won't, will)</p>	<p>✗ </p>
<p>d) There _____ any cars in 1600. (weren't, aren't, wasn't)</p>	<p>✗ </p>
<p>e) We _____ to throw rubbish in the bin. (should, must, have)</p>	<p>✓ </p>
<p>f) You _____ feed the animals. (mustn't, doesn't, haven't)</p>	<p>✗ </p>

(6 marks)

C. Writing

(30 marks)

C.1 The words in these sentences have been jumbled up.  
Sort out the words, then write the correct sentences below.  
(Note: Be careful to use ALL the words.)

Example: on school always time go I to

I always go to school on time.

a) children Yesterday a picnic the had

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b) kinds bones We many of have

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c) a year dentist should twice visit the You

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d) leaves the only There on were a few trees

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(4 marks)







**C.3 Composition**

(20 marks)

Write a composition of about 120 words on ONE of the following:

1. **A terrible storm**

When did it happen? How was the weather? Where were you and who were you with? Did the storm do any damage? Was anybody hurt? How did it all end?

2. **An alien in the schoolyard!**

One fine day you went in the schoolyard and found an alien. Can you describe the creature? Was it fierce or friendly? Were you afraid? What did you do? How long did the alien remain there?

3. **The Supermarket**

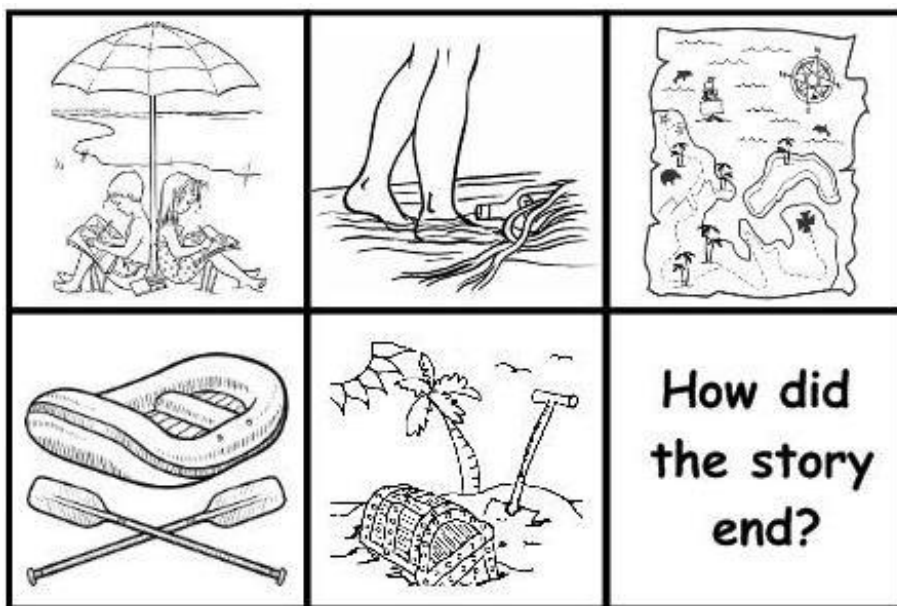
Describe the supermarket found in your village. Say how often you go shopping there and what you like or dislike about it.

4. **Picture composition: The Hidden Treasure**

Look at the pictures. Write about what happened and finish the story with a suitable ending.

The following words and phrases may help you:

**beach umbrella, bottle, old map, directions, rubber dinghy, row, island, old chest**



You may use this space for your planning.

Write the number of your composition.

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