

Joan Parsons.

UNIVERSITIES OF MANCHESTER LIVERPOOL
LEEDS SHEFFIELD AND BIRMINGHAM

JOINT MATRICULATION BOARD

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

TWO AND A HALF HOURS

Answer Questions 1 and 2 and in addition

EITHER the whole of Question 3,

OR two of Sections A, B, C, D in Question 3 and
the whole of Question 4.

Candidates are recommended to spend not more than
20 minutes on Question 1 and not more than 20
minutes on Question 2.

Write legibly and pay great attention to spelling
and punctuation.

1. Read the following passage carefully and then answer
the questions on it:

No sort of weather can be dull anywhere but some sorts
of weather are even more exciting than others. Most
exciting of all, perhaps, in a city are the first hours of romantic
strangeness after a heavy fall of snow. While snow lies deep

2 the proportions of things are altered. Streets become
much wider, especially if it be Sunday and not many people
are about. Women look tallest in dresses with no lines of
flounces round their skirts; in the same way a street widens
out as soon as it is not cut up into strips by the kerbs. Most

10 city streets look much the better for this work of deletion.
Their modern buildings, commonly, exceed the height the
total width of roadway and footpaths. Now part of a lost
hardness returns under a deep coating of snow and it

is as if every street has been improved for good, by a
15 meticulous setting back of the fronts on each side.

Another engaging effect of snow in towns is the emphasis
suddenly laid upon all visible roofs. Within a few minutes
the upper part of a Gothic town-hall may become a system
of steep hanging snow-slopes; they call out to be climbed

20 or to have their gradients considered. You may never have
thought about city chimneys before; but now they present
themselves in sharp black relief against those white sheets
of snow-covered slate. They will not be denied. They appeal

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Answer Questions 1 and 2 and in addition

EITHER the whole of Question 3,

**OR two of Sections A, B, C, D in Question 3 and
the whole of Question 4.**

**Candidates are recommended to spend not more than
50 minutes on Question 1 and not more than 60
minutes on Question 2.**

**Write legibly and pay great attention to spelling
and punctuation.**

**1. Read the following passage carefully and then answer
the questions on it :**

No sort of weather can be dull anywhere but some sorts
of weather are even more exciting than others. Most
exciting of all, perhaps, in a city are the first hours of romantic
strangeness after a heavy fall of snow. While snow lies deep
5 the proportions of things are altered. Streets become
much wider, especially if it be Sunday and not many people
are about. Women look tallest in dresses with no lines of
flounces round their skirts ; in the same way a street widens
out as soon as it is not cut up into strips by the kerbs. Most
10 city streets look much the better for this work of deletion.
Their modern buildings commonly exceed in height the
total width of roadway and footpaths. Now, part of a lost
handsomeness returns under a deep coating of snow and it
is as if every street has been improved, for good, by a
15 miraculous setting back of the fronts on each side.

Another engaging effect of snow in towns is the emphasis
suddenly laid upon all visible roofs. Within a few minutes
the upper part of a Gothic town-hall may become a system
of steep hanging snow-slopes ; they call out to be climbed
20 or to have their gradients considered. You may never have
thought about city chimneys before : but now they present
themselves in sharp black relief against those white sheets
of snow-covered slate. They will not be denied. They appeal

for fair play. They ask, have architects done chimneys
 25 justice? Or have they all this time been scornfully trusting
 the wretched lay citizen not to look up at any sky-line when
 he walks abroad?

Eye and mind are entertained by this abrupt and extensive
 re-distribution of the stresses of a familiar scene. It imparts
 30 a piquancy. It is not merely a lark, but a revelation or an
 exposure, to see how our familiar masterpieces of archi-
 tecture look when the heavens have sprinkled new accents
 on their several elements.

(a) Summarize, **in about 60 of your own words**, the effects, according to the passage, of a snowfall on a city.

(b) (i) What does the writer mean when he says that the "snow-slopes" call out "to have their gradients considered" (line 20)?

(ii) Why should the chimneys think they have not received fair play?

(iii) What do you understand in the passage by "lay citizen" (line 26)? Why does the writer call him "wretched"?

(c) Give the meaning, in a word or phrase, of each of the following words as used in the passage: (i) deletion (line 10), (ii) handsomeness (line 13), (iii) relief (line 22), (iv) re-distribution (line 29), (v) masterpieces (line 31).

(d) Explain, in detail, how the reference to women "with no lines of flounces round their skirts" (lines 7—8) illustrates the writer's point.

(e) Mention **one** reference which suggests that the writer has a sense of humour and, very briefly, try to indicate the humour.

2. Write from **two to three** pages on **one** of the following subjects:

(a) The pains and pleasures of growing up.

(b) The attraction of Britain for visitors from abroad.

(c) Hero worship.

(d) Holiday camps.

(e) Model railways.

(f) The charm of birds.

(g) "One must move with the times,"

3.A. It may be significant that Solomon, a kind of professional wise man, was deeply interested in fools. He said that if one were to pound a fool in a mortar one could not grind the folly out of him. He makes us reflect on the degree of our own folly. On All Fools' Day, our opinion may well be that it is our festival : we celebrate it because we can all remember occasions when we made fools of ourselves.

From the passage above quote :

- (i) A noun subordinate clause in apposition and the word to which it is in apposition.
- (ii) A noun subordinate clause used as complement and the verb of which it is the complement.
- (iii) A noun subordinate clause used as direct object and the verb of which it is the object.
- (iv) An adjectival subordinate clause and the word it modifies or qualifies.
- (v) An adverbial subordinate clause and the word it modifies.
- (vi) Another adverbial subordinate clause and the word it modifies.

B. Combine each of the following groups of four simple sentences into a complex sentence, thus making a continuous passage from (i), (ii) and (iii). The order of sentences in each group need not be kept.

- (i) Another collection of short plays has been published.
The B.B.C. has helped to popularise such plays.
Many people will welcome this collection.
The publishers believe that.
- (ii) Drama has been loved for many centuries in England.
It is loved intelligently and enthusiastically to-day.
It has never been so popular.
Amateur dramatic societies may be counted in thousands.
- (iii) The new volume is intended to provide pleasant reading.
It offers material for acting to amateurs.
Their needs have been considered.
No elaborate production is necessary.

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C. Choose **six** of the following pairs of words. Use each of the words in a separate sentence so as to bring out clearly the difference in meaning within each pair : (i) stratagem, strategy ; (ii) observance, observation ; (iii) incite, insight ; (iv) recourse, resource ; (v) imaginary, imaginative ; (vi) emancipated, emaciated ; (vii) precede, proceed.

D. Rewrite the following passage with correct punctuation and capital letters where necessary :

the adventure required time money and thought it also required many months work johnson hesitated being of cautious disposition how much do you need he asked oh about £10000 i replied what he exclaimed you cannot mean that besides he added operations are possible only in the summer which is too short a period you are on a wild goose chase and i must refuse

4. Read the following poems carefully and then answer the questions on them :

A. *The Eagle.*

They have him in a cage
 And little children run
 To offer him well-meant bits of bun,
 And very common people say, " My word !
 5 Ain't he a 'orrible bird ! "
 And the smart, " How absurd ! "
 Poor captive, draggled, downcast lord of the air !
 Steadfast in his despair,
 He doth not rage :
 10 But with unconquerable eye
 And soul aflame to fly,
 Considereth the sun.

B. *The Dromedary.*

- In dreams I see the Dromedary still,
 As once in a gay park I saw him stand :
 A thousand eyes in vulgar wonder scanned
 His hump and hairy neck, and gazed their fill
 5 At his lank shanks and mocked with laughter shrill.
 He never moved : and if his Eastern land
 Flashed on his eye with stretches of hot sand,
 It wrung no mute appeal from his proud will.
 He blinked upon the rabble lazily ;
 10 And still some trace of majesty forlorn
 And a coarse grace remained : his head was high,
 Though his gaunt flanks with a great mange were worn :
 There was not any yearning in his eye,
 But on his lips and nostril infinite scorn.

(a) Both the poems A and B have the same underlying ideas. Say fully what you think these ideas are.

(b) What contrasts in expression do you notice between the two parts of poem A ? Suggest a reason for the changes.

(c) From poem B quote **one** phrase of two words which shows the poet's attitude to the onlookers, and explain clearly how it does so.

(d) Relate each of the following phrases to its context and explain its full meaning : (i) "with unconquerable eye" (A, line 10) ; (ii) "of majesty forlorn" (B, line 10).