



KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL

Entrance Examination

11+ SAMPLE PAPERS

English Comprehension Paper

You will have 10 minutes in which to read the story and then 30 minutes for answering the questions.

In the answer booklet there are different types of questions for you to answer in different ways.

1. Multiple-choice answers – You do not need to do any writing for these questions. You need to circle the word which best answers the question.

Example: The story is set in the Past Present Future Circle ONE

2. Short answers – Some of the questions are followed by a short line, showing that you have to write just one word or a short phrase.

Example: What is the name of the writer? William Shakespeare

3. Longer answers – Some of the questions are followed by a few lines, showing that you need a more details answer.

Answer the question as carefully as you can. Do not ask to turn over the pages, but carry on in your own time. Check your answers if you have time, and if you need to make any changes do so neatly and clearly.

'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens
Adapted from Chapter 1

At this point in the story, the narrator – a small boy named Pip – is in a churchyard near to his home. Before long, a strange and frightening man appears.

Ours was the village down by the river and twenty miles from the sea. My first most vivid and broad impression of things was gained on a memorable afternoon towards evening. At such a time I found out for certain, that this bleak place overgrown with nettles was the churchyard; that the dark flat wilderness beyond the churchyard, intersected with ditches, mounds and
5 gates with scattered cattle feeding on it, was the marshes; and the low **lead** line beyond, was the river; and that the distant savage **lair** from which the wind was rushing, was the sea; and that the small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all and beginning to cry, was Pip.

"Hold your noise!" cried a terrible voice, as a man stood up from among the graves at the side of the church porch. "Keep still, you little devil, or I'll cut your throat!"

10 A fearful man, all in grey, with a great **iron cuff** on his leg. A man with no hat, and with broken shoes, and with an old rag tied round his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, and injured by stones, and cut by flints, and stung by nettles, and torn by brambles; who limped, and shivered, and glared and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me by the chin.

15 "Tell me your name!" said the man. "Quick!"

"Pip, sir."

"Once more," said the man, staring at me. "Give it mouth!"

"Pip. Pip, sir."

"Show me where you live," said the man. "Point out the place!"

20 I pointed to where our village lay, on the flat land away from the sea and among the alder-trees, a mile or more from the church. The man, after looking at me for a moment, turned me upside down, and emptied my pockets. There was nothing in them but a piece of bread. When the church came to itself – for he was so sudden and strong that he made it go head over heels before me, and I saw the steeple under my feet – when the church came to itself, I say, I
25 was seated on a high tombstone, trembling, while he ate the bread ravenously.

He muttered then, considering. "Who do you live with? Supposing you're kindly let to live, which I haven't made up my mind about."

"My sister, sir – Mrs. Gargery – wife of Joe Gargery, the **blacksmith**, sir."

"Blacksmith, eh?" said he. And looked down at his leg and the iron cuff.

30 After looking darkly at his leg and me several times, he came closer to the tombstone, took me by both arms, and tilted me back as far as he could hold me. His eyes looked most powerfully down into mine, and mine looked most helplessly up into his.

"Now look here," he said, "the question being whether you're to be let to live. You know what a file is? And you know what **wittles** is?"

35 "Yes, sir."

After each question he tilted me over a little more, so as to give me a greater sense of helplessness and danger.

"You get me a file and you get me wittles." He tilted me again. "You bring 'em both to me." He tilted me again. "Or I'll have your heart and liver out." He tilted me again.

40 I was dreadfully frightened, and so giddy that I clung to him with both hands, and said, "If you would kindly please to let me keep upright, sir, perhaps I shouldn't be sick, and perhaps I could listen more carefully to you."

He gave me a most tremendous dip and roll, so that the church jumped over its own spire.

45 "You bring me, tomorrow morning early, that file and them wittles. You do it, and you never dare to say a word about your having seen such a person as me and you shall be let to live. Now, what do you say?"

I said that I would get him the file, and I would get him what broken bits of food I could, and I would come to him early in the morning.

Glossary:

blacksmith – someone whose job it is to make or repair metal things.

iron cuff – a metal band fixed around a prisoner's leg to prevent them from running away.

lair – a place where a fierce wild animal lives.

lead – something that is similar to lead, a dark grey metal.

wittles – food

'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens
Reading Comprehension

1. Write down the **TWO** adjectives that the writer uses to describe the churchyard in Line 3. (2)

2. Which word in the first paragraph describes what the cows are doing? (1)

3. In Line 7 the writer describes Pip as being 'afraid of it all'. Which other **TWO** words in Line 7 suggest that Pip is afraid? (2)

4. In the first paragraph, the writer uses a description of bad weather to show that bad things are about to happen. Write down **the name of this technique** AND an example from the first paragraph. (2)

5. The man tells Pip: 'Hold your noise!' on Line 8. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** suggest what this might mean. (1)

6. The man is described as having 'a great iron cuff on his leg' in Line 10. Where do you think the man has come from? (1)

7. Write down **TWO VERBS** from Line 12 that show that the man is hurt. (2)

8. In Line 15 the man says: "Tell me your name!" Circle the **TWO** words that can be used to describe this sentence. (2)

Declarative

Interrogative

Imperative

Exclamatory

9. Re-read the paragraph that begins on Line 20. Why did the church seem to 'go head over heels'? Explain **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**. (1)

10. Pip always addresses the man as 'sir'. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, give **TWO** reasons why Pip might do this. (2)

11. The man 'looked down at his leg' when Pip said that his uncle, Joe Gargery, was a 'blacksmith'. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, explain why the man might have done this. Ensure that you have made **TWO** points. (2)

12. e-read the paragraph that begins on Line 30. Write down **TWO** adverbs that show the difference between how Pip and the man act. (2)

13. ow might Pip feel at this moment? **EXPLAIN BRIEFLY IN YOUR OWN WORDS** and ensure that you make **TWO** separate points. (2)

14. In Lines 33-34, the man instructs Pip to get 'a file' and 'wittles' for him. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, explain what you think the man will do after he has been given these. Ensure that you have made **TWO** separate points. (2)

15. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, give **TWO** reasons why the man might have chosen a child to get these things for him instead of an adult. (2)

16. In Line 39, the man uses a threat to make sure that Pip does as he is asked. Circle the word below that best describes the threat. (1)

Emotional

Physical

Violent

Pretend

17. Re-read the paragraph that begins on Line 40. **EITHER** in your own words **OR** using words from the extract, write down **THREE** reasons why Pip would like to be kept 'upright'. (3)

18. In Line 43, the narrator states that 'the church jumped over its own spire'. Which technique is being used here? (1)

19. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, describe what is going on in Line 43. (2)

20. Write down **ONE** example of non-standard English from Lines 40-45. (1)

21. Re-read the paragraph that begins on Line 44. Apart from telling Pip to bring him things, what else is the man telling Pip to do? Explain **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**. (1)

22. Pip says that he will come back 'early in the morning' with the promised items for the man. Why might this time of day be helpful in making sure that they do not get caught? **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, give **TWO** possible reasons. (2)

23. For each of the words printed in bold in the **left-hand column** of the table below, **circle** the **one word in the other column** that can best be used to replace it in the extract. The first one has been done for you. (3)

wilderness	village	desert	countryside	wasteland
soaked	drenched	smothered	splashed	wet
tilted	sloped	pushed	threw	dipped
Giddy	excited	dazed	disorientated	apprehensive