



ST. NICHOLAS COLLEGE
HALF-YEARLY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS
February 2012

YEAR 5

ENGLISH

TIME: 1 h 15 min

(Reading Comprehension, Language and Writing)

Name: _____

Class: _____

Total: 60 marks

Total Mark



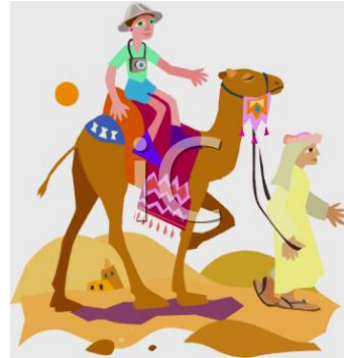
A. Reading Comprehension

(20 marks)

Read the following passage carefully.

SHIPS OF THE DESERT

Jack tried to get comfortable on the saddle cushion. But Beauty spat at him and made a weird screeching sound.



"Quiet!" said Jack. He hooked his shoulder bag onto a saddle horn. When he was finally settled, Beauty turned her head and started chewing on his leather bag. "No! Don't!" yelled Jack. He tried pulling the bag away, but Beauty played tug-of-war. "Come on, let go," Jack said. "Give it back, stupid!"

"Do you really think she is stupid?" Jack jumped. Mamoon had ridden up behind him and was watching as he tried to get his bag back from Beauty. Jack was embarrassed.

"Um, she won't let go of my stuff," he said. Mamoon grabbed the strap of Jack's bag. He clucked his tongue, and the camel let go. She groaned as Mamoon hooked the leather bag back onto the saddle horn.

"For thousands of years, camels like this one have carried people across the desert," said Mamoon. "She is truly a miracle of nature." Some miracle, thought Jack. "She can drink two barrels of water in ten minutes," said Mamoon, "and then go for a week without drinking again. She can live many days without food, too."

"Really?" said Jack.

"She is well suited to travel in the desert," said Mamoon. "Her thick eyebrows protect her eyes from the glare of the sun. Her long eyelashes and the fur around her ears keep out the windblown sand."

"Cool," said Jack softly.

"Her feet are so tough, they do not feel the heat of the desert," said Mamoon. "And they are so big that they keep her from sinking down into the loose sand."

"Hmm," said Jack.

"She can carry more than two hundred kilos of baggage on her back," said Mamoon, "and travel one hundred kilometres in a single day."

"That's a lot," murmured Jack. Mamoon **tugged** on the camel's reins and clucked his tongue. Beauty breathed heavily as she rose up on her long, powerful legs to her full height. Mamoon looked at Jack.



"We must respect her and honour her," he said. "In many ways, she is superior to us, no?"

(Adapted from *Season of the Sandstorms* by Mary Pope Osborne)

1. Tick (✓) to show the correct answer.

What did Beauty do when Jack was finally settled on the saddle?

(1 mark)

a)	kicked her legs and walked away	
b)	stopped walking and lay down	
c)	turned her head and chewed his bag	
d)	closed her eyes and slept	

2. Underline the best answer to complete the sentence.

a) Jack (liked playing, was angry, felt comfortable) with Beauty.

(1 mark)

b) The camel obeyed Mamoon when he (clucked his tongue, wiped his hands, stamped his feet).

(1 mark)

c) Jack's bag was made of (plastic, leather, cloth).

(1 mark)

3. Write True or False.

a) Camels have to eat every day. _____ (1 mark)

b) Jack paid attention to Mamoon's words. _____ (1 mark)

4. For how long have camels carried people across the desert?

(1 mark)

5. Windblown sand doesn't get into Beauty's eyes and ears because she has _____ and _____

_____.

(2 marks)

6. In paragraph 2, which word is the opposite of clever?

(1 mark)

7. Write down two **adjectives** that describe the camel's **feet**.



_____ and _____

(1 mark)

8. Which two actions did Mamoon perform to make Beauty rise up to her full height? (2 marks)

i) _____

ii) _____

9. From the **underlined words** in the passage find words that are similar in meaning to the following:

(Note: There are **two extra** underlined words in the passage)

(3 marks)

		Words in the passage
a)	pulled	<i>tugged</i>
b)	brightness	
c)	shouted	
d)	strange	

10. Why did Mamoon want Jack to respect Beauty? (2 marks)

11. Why do you think this passage is entitled 'Ships of the Desert'?

(2 marks)



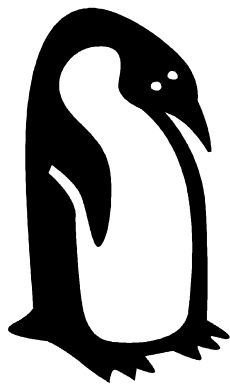
B. Language

(10 marks)

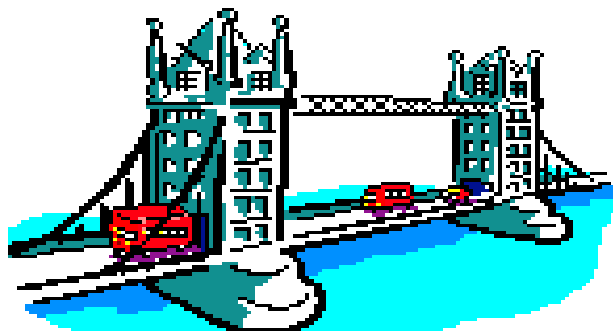
B.1 Underline the correct word:

(5 marks)

Daniel is going (in, on, to) holiday with his family. They will visit London this (spring, summer, winter). Their plane will depart from Malta on the 21st of July. The (weather, time, temperature) in London will be mostly warm and sunny, although it may also rain sometimes. Daniel is very (funny, sorry, excited) because he is going to (drive, travel, sail) by plane for the first time.



In London they will visit many (interesting, terrible, usually) places. Daniel has already found a lot of useful information while (riding, walking, surfing) the internet. He is thrilled at the idea of visiting Penguin Beach (into, at, over) the London Zoo and would like to sail a boat on the River Thames. He will surely send (a lot, much, many) postcards to his friends at home. Daniel believes it will be his (happy, best, largest) holiday ever.



B. 2. Read about Pebbles then fill in the blank spaces as necessary to complete the story. The words in brackets will help you.

(The first one has been done for you.)

(5 marks)

My aunt _____ has _____ (to have) a very clever cat. Her name _____ (to be) Pebbles, but she prefers to be called PB. I think she is a spy cat! She _____ (to know) how to open all doors, windows and cupboards. She _____ (to switch) on the TV and sits on the sofa, watching the news. Then she leaves the house every night and _____ (to go) on patrol, not returning before dawn.



One dark night a thief _____ (to enter) my aunt's house. Aunty Mary wasn't at home as she was _____ (to visit) a friend. The police received a strange phone call in which they _____ (to hear) only shrieks and cries. They



_____ (to hurry) to my aunt's house when they traced the telephone number. To their surprise they _____ (to find)

Pebbles licking her paws on the doorstep, the front door ajar, and the thief _____ (to hide) in the broom cupboard, calling for his mummy!

C. Writing

(30 marks)

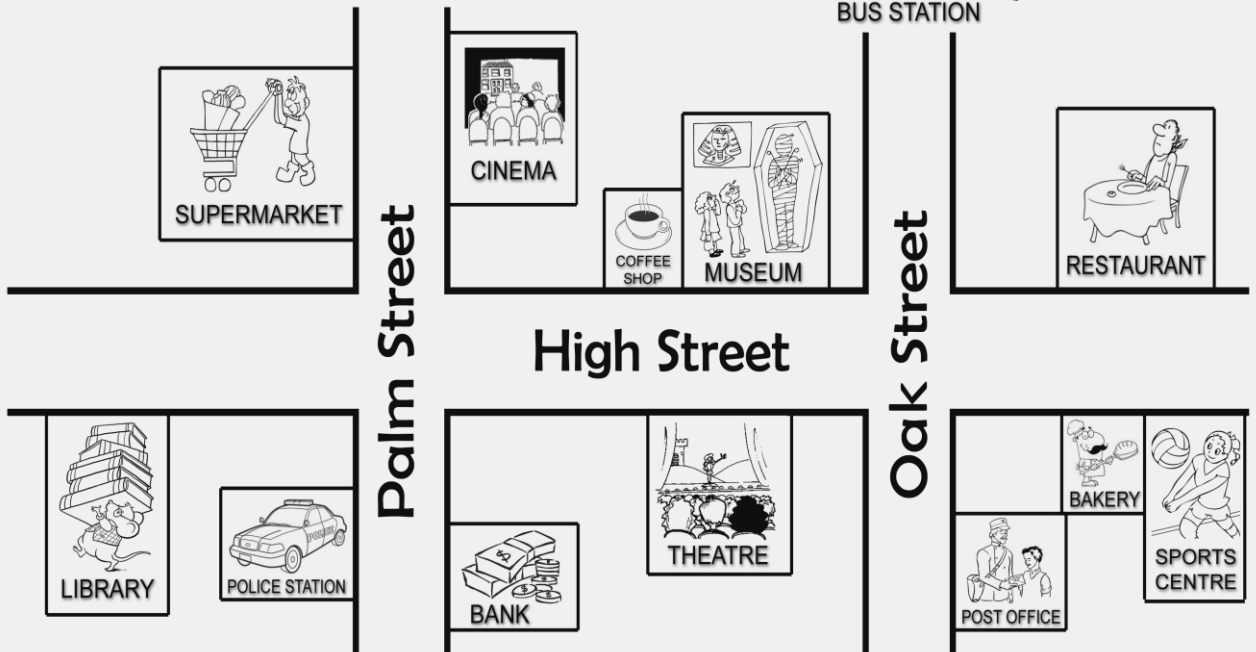
C.1. Look carefully at this street map.



BUS STATION



You are here



Now fill in the missing words from the table below.

(4 marks)

left	opposite	along	turning
end	next	theatre	right

Hello! This is Bradford Town. Let me guide you around. Start walking along High Street. You will find the town library immediately on your _____.

If you'd like to watch a movie, turn left at Palm Street. There's a cinema _____ the supermarket. If you continue _____ High Street you will soon reach the museum, which is found _____ to a little coffee shop.

There is also a large _____ opposite the museum. Go straight on and take the first _____ on your left. There is a bus station at the _____ of the street. But if you don't want to leave just yet, keep walking past Oak Street and you will find a good restaurant on the _____ where you can stop for a delicious meal. Have a good time!

C.2 You have found a lost puppy on your way home from school. Write a short article of about 40 words for your school newsletter to help him find his owner. Don't forget to say when and where you found him, what he looks like and where the owner should contact you to get him back.

(6 marks)



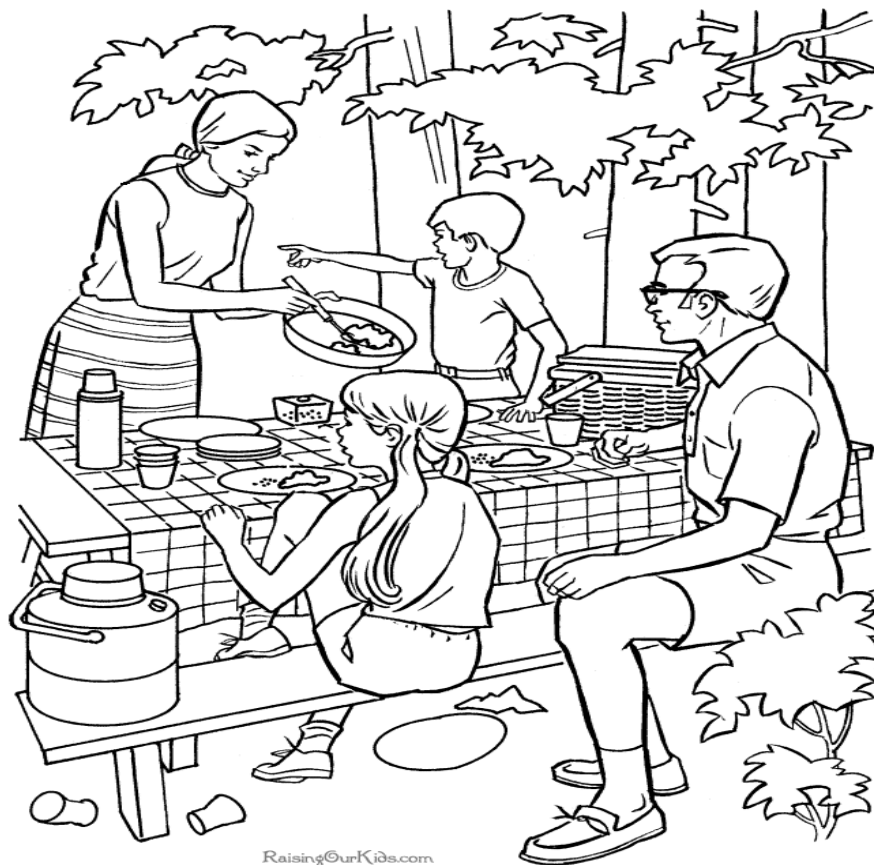
A lost puppy has been found _____

C.3 Composition

(20 marks)

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

1. **A place where I like to go**
Describe a place where you sometimes go to and say why you like it so much.
2. **The day everything went wrong!**
3. Yesterday you had a fight with your best friend. Write a **letter to your friend** to say how sorry you are and that you wish to make friends again.
4. Picture story: **An unexpected visitor during a picnic**
You were enjoying a picnic with your family when suddenly you received a surprise visit. Write about what happened.



You may use this space for your planning.

Title Number: _____

END OF PAPER