



Name:.....

## The Leys School Cambridge

### Year 6 Preliminary Assessment 2018

# E N G L I S H

Time allowed: 60 minutes

#### *Instructions*

- Write your name in the box at the top of this page
- There are 25 marks each for both Section A and Section B
- Dictionaries may NOT be used
- Spelling and grammar are important
- Divide the time as equally as possible between Section A and Section B

### Section A

- Read the passage carefully
- Answer ALL the questions in the spaces provided
- Use your **own words** where possible, backing up your ideas from the text.

## Section A: Comprehension

Read the extract from a short story called 'Do you Dance?' by Laurence Staig, and answer the questions below.

In this story, Robert (a young man in his early twenties) is on a walking holiday in Ireland with his good friend Heather and Heather's friend Sarah. At the start of this story, Robert hears some unusual music carried on the wind.

Was it his imagination? He wasn't sure. There was a soft, fragile music, which seemed to be carried on the breeze. After several days of wandering and climbing in this part of the country, he was beginning to feel that his surroundings were playing tricks on him. The sun appeared fiercer than he had ever seen before, and as the rays bled into the clouds they stained the sky like a wound. The stark, bold outlines of the rocks shimmered in the light, as if they were living things waiting to crawl across the landscape. This was a strange land, almost the dark side of the moon. The lush green wand of Ireland had missed this place. He shivered, but it was not from any coldness.

There they were again; pipes or whistles, he could not decide which, but the music was wound within the breeze. He stopped and listened again. 'Come on, you!' a cry came from ahead. Sarah and Heather had gone on, their back-packs, ropes, and tools bobbed like dark blots against the sparse greyness of rocks and gorse. 'I'm coming,' replied Robert. 'Hang on.' The girls stopped, waiting for him to catch up.

After several minutes he arrived, breathless. Heather had already opened the map and was peering into the distance, checking her co-ordinates. Sarah's face still seemed to mock him, her mouth upturned at the edges as though she were in possession of a secret which she would never tell. Her dark fringe blew in front of her face. Through her hair, her eyes sparkled. Sarah irritated him; he had never wanted her to join them, but she was Heather's friend and wanted the experience. Heather smiled at him, her smile warm and sincere.

'Not far now. Holihook should be just over that peak. See the stream down there?' She pointed in the distance. He nodded and followed her finger. 'That's the Holiwell. It goes through the village. See, look at the map.' 'He can't read maps,' laughed Sarah.

Heather folded up the map and put it into the pocket of her yellow parka. She squeezed his arm, and smiled at him with her eyes. How he wished it were just the two of them. Usually it was such fun with just the two of them, the wind in their hair. The breeze blew up again. This time a soft whistle echoed round the hillside.

'What about that music?' said Robert.

The two girls looked at him. Heather frowned. 'What music?'

## Section A: Comprehension Questions

Answer the questions below in clear, accurate English and full, complete sentences.

Look at the first paragraph in order to answer questions ...

1. What does Robert believe he has heard on the breeze?

.....(1)

2. **In your own words**, describe the weather described at the start of this story.

.....  
.....(1)

3. **In your own words**, describe the landscape at the start of this story.

.....  
.....(1)

4. Can you locate two **verbs** that have been used to describe the actions of the sun?

.....(2)

5. Can you find one **simile** that has been used in the first paragraph?

.....(1)

6. The story is set in Ireland, yet the writer says it is “a strange land, almost the dark side of the moon”. Can you give one reason as to what the writer may mean?

.....  
.....(1)

7. Writing in full sentences, explain what “the lush green wand of Ireland had missed this place” might mean.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....(3)

Now consider the rest of the story:

8. Using quotations from the text, write down three descriptions of Sarah that the writer provides.

.....  
.....  
.....(3)

9. **In your own words**, explain how Robert feels about Sarah and why. Please give at least two reasons.

.....  
.....  
.....(2)

10. **In your own words**, explain how Robert feels about Heather. Please give at least two reasons.

.....  
.....  
.....(2)

11. Can you find a word in the story that means the following:

- a. Thinly dispersed, scattered, in short supply .....(1)  
b. A description of genuine feelings free from trickery, deceit or lie.....(1)

Reflecting on the story as a whole:

12. How does the writer create a sense of mystery about the environment? Include three quotations to support your answer.

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.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....(6)