

ENTRANCE & SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

**For 13+ Candidates
ENGLISH**

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

There are two sections to this examination: Section A tests your reading, Section B tests your writing. Take 15 minutes to read through the passage and questions for Section A. You should then spend 30 minutes answering the questions for Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.

You must answer all the questions in Section A and one question from Section B. You will be given A4 paper for your answers. Put your full name and candidate number on the top right-hand corner of every sheet you use. Use a fresh sheet of paper for Section B. Your answers should be written in ink.



READING PASSAGE

This will be printed on a separate sheet for the entrance examination

When he first saw the crow, he took no notice. There had been several crows. This one glided down into the corn on its enormous, **ragged** black wings. He began to be aware of it when it rose up suddenly, circled overhead, and then dived, to land not very far away from him. Kingshaw could see the feathers on its head, shining blank in between the butter-coloured cornstalks. Then it rose, and circled, and came down again, this time not quite landing, but flapping about his head, beating its wings and making a sound like flat leather pieces being slapped together. It was the largest crow he had ever seen. As it came down for the third time, he looked up and noticed its beak, opening in a screech. The inside of its mouth was scarlet, it had small glinting eyes.

Kingshaw got up and flapped his arms. For a moment, the bird retreated a little way off, and higher up into the sky. He began to walk rather quickly back, through the path in the corn, looking ahead of him. Stupid to be scared of a rotten bird. What could a bird do? But he felt his own extreme isolation, high up in the cornfield.

For a moment, he could only hear the soft thudding of his own footsteps and the silky sound of the corn, brushing against him. Then, there was a rush of air, as the great crow came beating down, and wheeled about his head. The beak opened and the hoarse caaw came out again and again, from inside the scarlet mouth.

Kingshaw began to run, not caring, now, if he trampled the corn, wanting to get away, down into the next field. He thought that the corn might be some kind of crow's food store, in which he was seen as an invader. Perhaps this was only the first of a whole battalion of crows, that would rise up and swoop at him. Get on the grass then, he thought, get on to the grass, that'll be safe, it'll go away. He wondered if he had mistaken him for some hostile animal, lurking down in the corn.

His progress was very slow, thorough the cornfield, the thick stalks bunched together and got in his way, and he had to shove them back with his arms. But he reached the gate and climbed it, and dropped on to the grass of the field on the other side. Sweat was running down his forehead and into his eyes. He looked up. The crow kept on coming. He ran.

But it wasn't easy to run down this field, either, because of the tractor ruts. He began to leap wildly from side to side of them, his legs stretched as wide as they could go, and for a short time, it seemed that he did go faster. The crow dived again, and, as it rose, Kingshaw felt the tip of its black wing, beating against his face. He gave a sudden dry sob. Then, his left foot caught in one of the ruts and he **keeled** over, going down straight forwards.

He lay with his face in the coarse grass, panting and sobbing by turns, with the sound of his own blood pumping through his ears. He felt the sun on the back of his neck, and his ankle was wrenched. But he would be able to get up. He raised
40 his head, and wiped two fingers across his face. A streak of blood came off, from where a thistle had scratched him. He got unsteadily to his feet, taking in deep, desperate breaths of the close air. He could not see the crow.

But when he began to walk forwards again, it rose up from the grass a little way off, and began to circle and swoop. Kingshaw broke into a run, sobbing and wiping
45 the damp mess of tears and sweat off his face with one hand. There was a blister on his ankle, rubbed raw by the sandal strap. The crow was still quite high, soaring easily, to keep pace with him. Now, he had scrambled over the third gate, and he was in the field next to the one that belonged to Warings*. He could see the back of the house. He began to run much faster.

50 This time, he fell and lay completely winded. Through the runnels of sweat and the sticky tufts of his own hair, he could see a figure, looking down at him from one of the top windows of the house.

Then there was a single screech, and the terrible beating of wings, and the crow swooped down and landed in the middle of his back.

55 Kingshaw thought, that, in the end, it must have been his screaming that frightened it off, for he dared not move. He lay and closed his eyes and felt the claws of the bird digging into his skin, through the thin shirt, and began to scream in a queer, gasping sort of way. After a moment or two, the bird rose. He had expected it to begin pecking him with his beak, remembering terrible stories about vultures that
60 went for living people's eyes. He could not believe his own escape.

He scrambled up, and ran on, and this time, the crow only hovered above, though not very high up, and still following him, but silently, and no longer attempting to swoop down. Kingshaw felt his legs go weak beneath him, as he climbed the last fence, and stood in the place from which he had started out on his walk, by the
65 edge of the copse. He looked back fearfully. The crow circled a few times, and then dived into the thick foliage of the beech trees.

Kingshaw wiped his face with the back of his hand again. He wanted to go to his mother. He was trembling all over. But he never did go to her, he made himself cope alone, he would not go because of a stupid bird.

*Warings – the name of the nearby house

Section A

Read the passage very carefully at least once.

Write your name and your candidate number at the top of each sheet of paper.

Answer the following questions in full sentences, quoting from the text to support the points made. Detailed answers will be rewarded here.

1. Looking at the first paragraph of the passage, lines 1- 10, list five things about the crow's appearance. (5 marks)
2. Looking at the second paragraph, lines 11 – 15, list two things you think Kingshaw might be feeling and in your own words explain why. (4 marks)
3. Reread paragraph 4, lines 21 - 27. In this paragraph the writer uses military language. Find three examples and explain what the words suggest about why Kingshaw thinks he is being attacked. (5 marks)
4. Suggest alternative words/phrases for each of the following words (underlined in the passage):
 - a. ragged
 - b. keeled
 - c. close
 - d. runnels
 - e. copse(5 marks)
5. Reread the paragraphs on lines 39 - 54. Kingshaw experiences physical discomfort in these sections. Find four things that he physically experiences and explain how his discomfort helps to build the tension. (5 marks)
6. 'Then there was a single screech, and the terrible beating of wings, and the crow swooped down and landed in the middle of his back.'

Find two ways in which the writer uses language to create a climax at this moment in the passage and explain their effects? (4 marks)

7. Reread the paragraph on lines 57 – 63. What does Kingshaw expect the bird to do and why does he think this? (2 marks)
8. Now consider the passage as a whole. How does the writer use words and phrases, a variety of sentence types and sentence lengths and imagery to show Kingshaw's fear? (10 marks)
9. Explore the character of Kingshaw. What do you learn about him through his thoughts, feelings and actions? You should use evidence from the passage to back up your answer. (10 marks)

Section B

Begin your answer on a fresh sheet of paper and write your name and candidate number at the top.

Remember to plan and check your work.

Presentation and accuracy of spelling and punctuation will be assessed in the marking of this section.

You should answer **ONE OF THE QUESTIONS** in this section. Your answer will be marked out of a possible 50 marks.

Either

- a) Write a description of an outside location, trying to create a feeling of isolation or loneliness. You should try to make your writing as vivid and interesting as you can.

Or

- b) Write about an event that sticks in your memory and explain why it was significant for to you. You should try to make your writing as vivid and interesting as you can.

END OF EXAMINATION

**2015 ENTRANCE & SCHOLARSHIP
EXAMINATION**

**For 13+ Candidates
ENGLISH READING PASSAGE**