



**Rugby  
School**

**Sixth Form Entrance Examination**

**Specimen Paper**

**ENGLISH**

**Time allowed: 60 minutes**

**Total marks: 60**

There are two sections.  
Spend about 40 minutes on section A  
and about 20 minutes on section B.

## Section A

Read the following passage and the poem which follows it and answer the questions on them:

*This passage is by Charles Dickens, from his novel "Dombey and Son".*

*Mr Dombey is a rich businessman, whose wife has recently died. Paul is his son. They are sitting together by the fire after dinner.*

'Papa! what's money?' 1

The abrupt question had such immediate reference to the subject of Mr Dombey's thoughts, that Mr Dombey was quite disconcerted. 3

'What is money, Paul?' he answered. 'Money?' 5

'Yes,' said the child, laying his hands upon the elbows of his little chair, and turning the old face up towards Mr Dombey's; 'what is money?' 7

Mr Dombey was in a difficulty. He would have liked to give him some explanation involving the terms circulating-medium, currency, depreciation of currency', paper, bullion, rates of exchange, value of precious metals in the market, and so forth; but looking down at the little chair, and seeing what a long way down it was, he answered: 'Gold, and silver, and copper. Guineas, shillings, half-pence. You know what they are?' 10

'Oh yes, I know what they are,' said Paul. 'I don't mean that, Papa. I mean what's money after all?' 15

Heaven and Earth, how old his face was as he turned it up again towards his father's!

'What is money after all!' said Mr Dombey, backing his chair a little, that he might the better gaze in sheer amazement at the presumptuous atom that propounded such an inquiry. 20

'I mean, Papa, what can it do?' returned Paul, folding his arms (they were hardly long enough to fold), and looking at the fire, and up at him, and at the fire, and up at him again.

Mr Dombey drew his chair back to its former place, and patted him on the head. 'You'll know better by-and-by, my man,' he said. 'Money, Paul, can do anything.' He took hold of the little hand, and beat it softly against one of his own, as he said so. 25

But Paul got his hand free as soon as he could; and rubbing it gently to and fro on the elbow of his chair, as if his wit were in the palm, and he were sharpening it - and looking at the fire again, as though the fire had been his adviser and prompter - repeated, after a short pause:

'Anything, Papa?' 30

'Yes. Anything - almost,' said Mr Dombey.

'Anything means everything, don't it, Papa?' asked his son: not observing, or possibly not understanding, the qualification.

'It includes it: yes,' said Mr Dombey.

'Why didn't money save me my Mama?' returned the child. 'It isn't cruel, is it?' 33

'Cruel!' said Mr Dombey, settling his neckcloth, and seeming to resent the idea. 'No. A good thing can't be cruel.'

'If it's a good thing, and can do anything,' said the little fellow, thoughtfully, as he looked back at the fire, 'I wonder why it didn't save me my Mama.'

- 1      Why is Mr Dombey “disconcerted”? *Line 3* (2 marks)
  
- 2      Why does Paul’s question cause Mr Dombey “difficulty” (paragraph 5)? *Line 7* (4 marks)
  
- 3      How do the words “after all” change the meaning of Paul’s question? *Line 12* (4 marks)
  
- 4      Why is Paul’s face described as “old”? *Line 13* (4 marks)
  
- 5      What do the *actions* of the two people contribute to our knowledge of their relationship? (6 marks)

## The Lesson

'Your father's gone,' my bald headmaster said.  
His shiny dome and brown tobacco jar  
Splintered at once in tears. It wasn't grief.  
I cried for knowledge which was bitterer  
Than any grief. For there and then I knew (5)  
That grief has uses – that a father dead  
Could bind the bully's fist a week or two;  
And then I cried for shame, then for relief.

I was a month past ten when I learnt this:  
I still remember how the noise was stilled (10)  
In school-assembly when my grief came in.  
Some goldfish in a bowl quietly sculled  
Around their shining prison on its shelf.  
They were indifferent. All the other eyes  
Were turned towards me. Somewhere in myself (15)  
Pride, like a goldfish, flashed a sudden fin.

- 6 Compare this poem with the passage, looking especially at similarities and differences between the way each one describes the meetings, the relationship between the people involved, and the reactions of the children. Write about 300 words. 20 marks

## Section B

Choose *one* of the following subjects and write about 200 words on it:

Create part of (or the whole of) a dramatic interview between two people in which an important fact or feeling emerges. You can use any context – television, interrogation, confessional...etc. You can write it as a piece of conversation or as a script.

or

Money is like a drug: we can't get enough of it; it dominates every aspect of our lives and it'll end up by destroying us. How true is this? Use your own experience or any other knowledge you have as evidence for your view.

20 marks

**END OF PAPER**