

# Alleyn's

## **13+ ENGLISH SAMPLE EXAMINATION PAPER 2**

One hour 15 minutes.



## READING PASSAGE

***Jack is living with his wife Mabel in Alaska (North America) in the 1920s. A little girl has appeared mysteriously on their land. In this passage Jack follows her into the woods.***

Jack had always considered himself if not brave then at least competent and sure. He was very wary of true danger, of flighty horses that could break your back and farm tools that could sever limbs, but he had always **scoffed** at the superstitious, and mystical. Alone in the depths of the wilderness, however, in the fading winter  
5 light, he had discovered in himself an animal-like fear. What shamed him all the more was that he could not name it. If Mabel had asked what terrified him when he followed the girl into the mountains, he could only have answered with the timid uncertainty of a child scared of the dark. Disturbing thoughts whirled through his brain, stories he must have heard as a boy about forest hags and men who turned  
10 into bears. It wasn't the girl that frightened him as much as the strange world of snow and rock and hushed trees that she navigated with ease.

The girl had deftly jumped logs and scampered through the woods like a fairy. He had got close enough to notice the brown fur of her hat and the knee-high leather  
15 moccasins that bound her feet. By the woodpile, when he had spoken to her, he had caught sight of her blond eyelashes and the intensely blue eyes and, when he asked if she like the doll, he saw her smile. The shy, sweet smile of a little girl.

But then she became a **phantom**, a silent blur. As Jack tried to follow her, an icy  
20 fog moved through the forest. Minute crystals of ice filled the air and gathered as *hoar frost* along the tree branches and on his lashes. He could see only a few feet into the mist. He stopped occasionally, bent with his hands on his knees while sweat froze at his brow. He tried to silence his heavy breathing, but then all he heard was the snow creaking beneath his boots. The child made no sound. He  
25 heard twigs crack, only to watch a *snowshoe hare* bound through the *alders*, and later, as night closed in, an owl hooted from far away. He never heard the girl. At times he wasn't sure he was even following her anymore but instead blindly thrashing through the trees like a bewitched, crazy man. Then he would see her, just ahead, as if she wanted to be seen.

30 He lost track of how far he had come or how long he had been gone, yet he kept on, past their 160-acre homestead, up into the foothills, of the mountains where he had hunted moose and beyond, to where the trees dwindled to alpine birch shrubs and *Labrador tea*. He followed her still higher until he **crested** a rise and found  
35 himself in a narrow mountain gorge with steep shale cliffs.



## 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 1-11, list two things Jack thinks are dangerous and for each explain why. (4 marks)
2. Looking at the second paragraph of the passage, lines 13-1, list five things about the little girl's appearance. (5 marks)
3. 'The girl had deftly jumped logs and scampered through the woods like a fairy.'

Find two ways in which the writer uses language to create a sense of the girl's movement at this moment in the passage and explain their effects?  
(4 marks)

4. Reread the paragraph on lines 19-29. Jack experiences physical discomfort at this moment. Find four things that he physically experiences and explain what these things show us about his journey. (5 marks)
5. Suggest alternative words/phrases for each of the following words (underlined in the passage):
  - a. scoffed
  - b. phantom
  - c. crested
  - d. ravine
  - e. illusion

(5 marks)

6. Reread the paragraphs 6 and 7 lines 42-61. In this section Jack feels very uneasy. In your own words (as far as possible) explain why. (4 marks)

7. Reread the final paragraph lines 53-61. Why does Jack leave the trail and how does he plan to get home? (3 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 build mystery and tension? (10 marks)
9. Explore the character of Jack. 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 a magical or mysterious place. You should try to make your writing as vivid and interesting as you can.

***Or***

- b) Write about an exciting journey. You should try to make your writing as vivid and interesting as you can.

**END OF EXAMINATION**