



Candidate's  
name

## English Language Entrance Test

Entry point: Year 12

### EXEMPLAR

**Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes**

#### Instructions:

- Use black ink or ball-point pen.
- Fill in the box at the top of this page with your name.
- Answer all the questions in all Sections (Section A, B and C).
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

#### Information

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets
- Quality of written communication, including vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar, will be taken into account in your response to Section C.
- Dictionaries may not be used in this examination.

#### Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.
- You are reminded of the importance of clear English and careful presentation in your answers.



SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

Firstly, please read the text. Then, answer ALL the questions in this section.

You should spend about 30 minutes on this section.

The following text is an extract from the series of letters written by Isabella Lucy Bird to her sister Henrietta, capturing her travels in the Rocky Mountains. The letters were subsequently published as a book, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*, in 1879. Bird was a prolific and intrepid 19<sup>th</sup> century female traveller who became well known through her published journals, magazines and travel books.

[When I was in Cheyenne, Wyoming (USA)]...we had much talk about the neighborhood and its wild beasts, especially bears. The forest here is full of them, but they seem never to attack people unless when wounded, or much aggravated by dogs, or a she-bear thinks you are going to molest her young.

I dreamt of bears so vividly that I woke with a furry death hug at my throat, but feeling quite refreshed. When I mounted my horse after breakfast the sun was high and the air so keen and intoxicating that, giving the animal his head, I galloped up and down hill, feeling completely tireless. Truly, that air is the elixir of life. I had a glorious ride back to Truckee. The road was not as solitary as the day before. In a deep part of the forest the horse snorted and reared, and I saw a cinnamon-colored bear with two cubs cross the track ahead of me. I tried to keep the horse quiet that the mother might acquit me of any designs upon her lolloping<sup>1</sup> children, but I was glad when the ungainly, long-haired party crossed the river.

Then I met a team, the driver of which stopped and said he was glad that I had not gone to Cornelian Bay, it was such a bad trail, and hoped I had enjoyed Tahoe. The driver of another team stopped and asked if I had seen any bears. Then a man heavily armed, a hunter probably, asked me if I were the English tourist who had "happened on a 'Grizzly'" yesterday. Then I saw a lumberer taking his dinner on a rock in the river, who...brought me a draught of ice-cold water, which I could hardly drink owing to the fractiousness<sup>2</sup> of the horse, and gathered me some mountain roses, which I admired. I mention these little incidents to indicate the habit of respectful courtesy to women which prevails in that region. These men might have been excused for speaking in a somewhat free-and-easy tone to a lady riding alone. Womanly dignity and manly respect for women are the salt of society in this wild West.

My horse was so excitable that I avoided the center of Truckee, and skulked through a collection of Chinamen's shanties to the stable, where a prodigious roan horse, standing seventeen hands high, was produced for my ride to the Donner Lake. I asked the owner, who was as interested in my enjoying myself as a West Highlander might have been, if there were not ruffians<sup>3</sup> about who might make an evening ride dangerous. A story was current of a man having ridden through Truckee two evenings before with a chopped-up human body in a sack behind the saddle, and hosts of stories of ruffianism are located there, rightly or wrongly. This man said, "There's a bad breed of ruffians, but the ugliest among them all won't touch you. There's nothing Western folk admire so much as pluck

<sup>1</sup> Lolloping (adj.) = (of a person or especially a large animal) to move in an awkward, rolling way.

<sup>2</sup> Fractiousness (n.) = disobedience.

<sup>3</sup> Ruffian (n.) = a violent, wild, and unpleasant person, usually a man.



40

in a woman." I had to get on a barrel before I could reach the stirrup, and when I was mounted my feet only came half-way down the horse's sides. I felt like a fly on him. The road at first lay through a valley without a river, but some swampishness nourished some rank swamp grass, the first GREEN grass I have seen in America; and the pines, with their red stems, looked beautiful rising out of it. I hurried along, and came upon the Donner Lake quite suddenly, to be completely smitten by its beauty. It is only about three miles long by one and a half broad, and lies hidden away among mountains, with no dwellings on its shores but some deserted lumberers' cabins. Its loneliness pleased me well. I did not see man, beast, or bird from the time I left Truckee till I returned.

**[End of Text]**



1. Read lines 1-4. **Using your own words** explain the three reasons why bears attack people, according to the author Isabella Lucy Bird.

---

---

---

**[3 marks]**

2. Read lines 6-10. Explain what the weather was like when the author went riding.

---

---

---

---

**[2 marks]**

3. Read lines 6-13. In this part of her letter the author describes an important encounter. Explain why this part of her narrative may be impactful for you as a reader.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**[3 marks]**



4. Read lines 15-24. **Using your own words**, describe **one** of the two things that the lumberer does for the author.

---

---

**[1 mark]**

5. Read lines 23-24. What do you think the author means when she describes the actions of those around her as “the salt of society in this wild West.”? Why might this be important?

---

---

---

---

**[2 Marks]**

6. Select **one** word or phrase from lines 26-41 that describe the author and her horse.

---

---

---

---

**[1 mark]**

7. Consider lines 26-41 once again. What is your assessment of the author’s character, based on this part of the text?

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

**[3 marks]**

8. Look at line 36. Explain why you think the author capitalized the word "GREEN".

---

---

**[1 mark]**

9. Throughout the text the author describes several encounters with unfamiliar aspects of a new land that she is discovering. Comment on why you may or may not think that travel writing of this kind is useful for readers, remembering the time in which the text was written.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**[4 Marks]**



**SECTION B: USE OF ENGLISH**

**Answer ALL the questions in this section.**

**You should spend about 15 minutes on this section.**

---

Use the word given in capital letters to form a word that fits the gap:

EXAMPLE: The company “Gap Year Travel” offers a [SELECT] of student-friendly holidays.

ANSWER: SELECTION

1. There are an amazing number of species of fish inhabiting many [DIFFER] waters.

ANSWER:

2. The deepest seas are in total [DARK], while the shallow waters are a beautiful turquoise.

ANSWER:

3. The number and [VARY] of fresh-water species is also incredibly high.

ANSWER:

4. Adaptations in body shape and behaviour have allowed marine life to live so [SUCCESS] in many types of water habitats.

ANSWER:

---

Complete this sentence with the correct article (a / an / the) or no article (-):

5. Going to ... United States of America is ... common goal for many ... high school students so that they can practise ... English!



Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first, using the word given. Do not change the word given:

EXAMPLE:

It wasn't Mark who you met in the shop.

**HAVE**

It ... Mark who you met in the shop.

ANSWER: can't have been

6. She was just going to start her essay when the phone rang.

**ABOUT**

She was just ... essay when the phone rang.

ANSWER:

7. John didn't manage to complete his presentation.

**FAILED**

John ... his presentation.

ANSWER:

8. How long have you been studying English?

**BEGIN**

When ... studying English?

ANSWER:

**[Turn over for the remaining questions in Section B]**



9. Georgina wrote her last film script five years ago.

**WAS**

It ... Georgina wrote her last film script.

ANSWER:

10. Nobody took any notice of their bad behaviour.

**ATTENTION**

Nobody ... their bad behaviour.

ANSWER:

**[End of Section B; turn over for Section C]**













**AKADEMEIA  
HIGH SCHOOL**