

11+ English
Entrance Examination
2025



Time Allowed: 1 hour

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Your answers to this examination should be **written on lined paper**.

Make sure that **your name** is on ***all*** the pieces of paper you use.

This examination consists of:

- **Section A:** A reading passage with comprehension questions;
- **Section B:** A creative writing section.

You must complete **both** Section A and Section B

Section A: Comprehension (20 marks).

The following passage is taken from 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness. The story is about a young boy called Conor. Conor lives with his mother, who is very sick. He has been having terrifying nightmares about darkness and a frightening monster. In this extract, Conor wakes up to find an actual monster outside his house!

• Read the following passage carefully. Answer all the questions that follow in full sentences, using accurate punctuation and including as much detail as possible.

Conor could see the great yew tree that rose from the centre of the graveyard, a tree so ancient it almost seemed to be made of the same stone as the church. He only knew it was a yew because his mother had told him, first when he was little to make sure he didn't eat the berries, which were poisonous, and again this past year, when she'd started staring out of the kitchen window with a funny look on her face and saying, "That's a yew tree, you know."

And then he heard his name again.

Conor.

Like it was being whispered in both his ears.

"What?" Conor said, his heart thumping, suddenly impatient for whatever was going to happen.

A cloud moved in front of the moon, covering the whole landscape in darkness, and a *whoosh* of wind rushed down the hill and into his room, billowing the curtains. He heard the creaking and cracking of wood again, groaning like a living thing, like the hungry stomach of the world growling for a meal.

Then the cloud passed, and the moon shone again.

On the yew tree.

Which now stood firmly in the middle of his back garden.

And here was the monster.

As Conor watched, the uppermost branches of the tree gathered themselves into a great and terrible face, shimmering into a mouth and nose and even eyes, peering back at him. Other branches twisted around one another, inextricably linked, always creaking, always groaning, until they formed two long legs and a second leg to set down beside the main trunk. The rest of the tree gathered itself into a spine and then a torso, the thin needle-like leaves weaving together to make a green furry skin that moved and breathed as though there were muscles and lungs underneath.

Already taller than Conor's window, the monster grew wider as it brought itself together, filling out to a powerful shape, one that looked somehow strong, somehow *mighty*. It stared at Conor the whole time, and he could hear the loud, wind breathing from its mouth. It set its giant hands on either side of his window, lowering its head until its huge eyes filled the frame, holding Conor with its glare. Conor's house gave a little moan under its weight.

And then the monster spoke.

Conor O'Malley, it said, a huge gust of warm, compost-smelling breath rushing through Conor's window, blowing his hair back. Its voice rumbled low and loud, with a vibration so deep Conor could feel it resonating in his chest.

I have come to get you, Conor O'Malley, the monster said, pushing against the house, shaking the pictures off Conor's wall, sending books and electronic gadgets and an old stuffed toy rhino tumbling to the floor.

A monster, Conor thought. A real, honest-to-goodness monster. In real, waking life. Not in a dream, but here, at his window.

Come to get him.

But Conor didn't run.

In fact, he found he wasn't even frightened.

All he could feel, all he *had* felt since the monster revealed itself, was a growing disappointment.

Because this wasn't the monster he was expecting.

Section A: Comprehension Questions (Total: 20 marks)

1. Re-read lines 19-24, identify three words or phrases that describe the tree. *You can write this as bullet point answers.* **(3 marks)**
2. Look again at lines 25-34, explain how a sense of fear is created. *Support your answer with brief quotations.* **(5 marks)**
3. 'Re-read lines 17-37. Using brief quotations, *explore* how the writer creates a scary atmosphere. You may want to consider:
 - Key vocabulary used by the author
 - Paragraph and sentence length or punctuation used by the author**(12 marks)**

Section B: Creative Writing Task (Total: 30 marks)

Marks will be awarded for thoughtful, imaginative pieces, which have accurate and varied paragraphs and sentence structures, as well as accurate spelling and punctuation.

Write a short story about an unusual or unexpected visitor. You can title it: 'An unusual visitor'

The piece can be funny, moving or frightening, but you should describe the visitor in interesting descriptive detail.