

11+ English
Entrance Examination
2025



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Time Allowed: 1 hour

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

10 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.

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

Section A: Comprehension (20 marks).

The following passage is taken from 'The Hobbit' by J.R.R. Tolkien. In this extract, Bilbo Baggins (a hobbit) is lost, and meets the creature Gollum for the first time.

Read the following passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

20 Deep down here by the dark water lived old Gollum, a small slimy creature. I don't know where he came from, nor who or what he was. He was Gollum – as dark as darkness, except for two big, round, pale eyes in his thin face. He had a little boat, and he rowed about quite quietly on the lake; for lake it was, wide and deep and deadly cold. He paddled it with large feet dangling over the side, but never a ripple did he make. Not he. He was looking out of his pale, lamp-like eyes for blind fish, which he grabbed with his long fingers as quick as thinking. He liked meat too. Goblin he thought good, when he could get it; but he took
25 care they never found him out. He just throttled them from behind, if they ever came down alone near the edge of the water, while he was prowling about. They very seldom did, for they had a feeling that something unpleasant was lurking down there, down at the very roots of the mountain. They had stumbled upon the lake, when they were tunnelling down long ago, and they found they could go no further; so there their road ended in that direction, and there was no reason to go that way – unless the Great Goblin sent them. Sometimes he
30 took a fancy for fish from the lake, and sometimes neither goblin nor fish came back.

Actually, Gollum lived on a slimy island of rock in the middle of the lake. He was watching Bilbo now from the distance with his pale eyes like telescopes. Bilbo could not see him, but he was wondering a lot about Bilbo, for he could see that he was no goblin at all.

35 Gollum got into his boat and shot off from the island, while Bilbo was sitting on the brink altogether flummoxed and at the end of his way and his wits. Suddenly, up came Gollum and whispered and hissed:

'Bless us and splash us, my precioussss! I guess it's a choice feast; at least a tasty morsel it'd make us, *gollum!*' And when he said *gollum* he made a horrible swallowing noise in his throat. That is how he got his name, though he always called himself 'my precious.'

40 The hobbit jumped nearly out of his skin when the hiss came in his ears, and he suddenly saw the pale eyes sticking out at him.

'Who are you?' he said, thrusting his dagger in front of him.

'What iss he, my precious?' whispered Gollum (who always spoke to himself through never having anyone else to speak to). This is what he had come to find out, for he was not really very hungry at that moment, only curious; otherwise he would have grabbed first and whispered afterwards.

45 'I am Mr Bilbo Baggins. I have lost the dwarves and I have lost the wizard, and I don't know where I am; and I don't want to know, if only I can get away.'

'What's he got in his handses?' said Gollum, looking at the sword, which he did not quite like.

'A sword, a blade which came out of Gondolin!'

50 'Sssss' said Gollum, and became quite polite. 'Praps ye sits here and chats with it a bitsy, my precious. It likes riddles, praps it does, does it?' He was anxious to appear friendly, at any rate for the moment, and until he found out more about the sword and the hobbit, whether he was quite alone really, whether he was good to eat, and whether Gollum was really hungry. Riddles were all he could think of. Asking them, and sometimes guessing them, had been the only game he had ever played with other funny creatures sitting in their holes in the long, long ago, before he lost all his friends and was driven away, alone,
55 and crept down, down into the dark under the mountains.

Section A: Comprehension Questions (Total: 20 marks)

- 60 1. Re-read **lines 18-29**, identify three words or phrases that describe Gollum? *You may answer in bullet points.* **3 marks**
- 65 2. In **lines 30-39**, explain how the author makes the Gollum sound **scary**. *You should defend your points with quotations.* **5 marks**
- 70 3. Using the **whole passage**, and brief quotations in your answer, *explore* how the writer creates an air of mystery.
- You may want to consider:
1. Key vocabulary used by the author
 2. 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 story that ends with the following line:

As the darkness stretched out before me in heavy silence, I realised with grim terror that I was lost and alone.