

Exeter School – English Department



14+ Guide to the English Entrance Examination

Overview of the Entrance Examination

The examination lasts for **1 hour 30 minutes**.

There are two sections, as follows. You must complete both sections:

Section A

You will be given a question on an extract from either '*The Signalman*' or '*The Tell-tale Heart*'.

This question assesses your ability to write argumentatively and to analyse literary texts to support and develop your arguments. You should write about three argumentative paragraphs (PEE) paying close attention to the language and structure of the text.

Each paragraph should have a focused topic sentence. Your argument should be supported by quotation[s] from the extract. You should identify the writer's techniques and explain the effect in developing your response.

There are a maximum of 30 marks awarded for the effectiveness of your arguments.

Section B

You will have a choice of two imaginative writing prompts; you choose one. The writing prompts may be:

- a specific writing task ('Write about a time when you made something.')
- asking you to write something based on a given title.
- giving you an opening line (and a picture you can use to inspire your writing)

Your response can be real or imagined (or a mixture).

There are a total of 30 marks awarded. You are assessed for:

- The **accuracy** of your writing
- The style and **content** of your writing
- The **organisation** and structure of your writing

Key points

- Write about 1 side and no more than 2 sides
- The story should have a clear but simple plot ('Beginning, middle and end')
- Do NOT include a lot of plot: you don't have time and the story will be boring.
- Do NOT use dialogue (i.e. direct speech)
- Use a good descriptive vocabulary
- Use structural features to make writing dynamic
- You should edit your work carefully.

Timings

Try to spend 45 minutes on each section, or a maximum of 1 hour on section A and 30 minutes on section B.