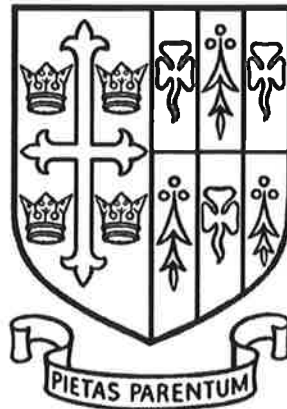


ST EDWARD'S OXFORD



13+ SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

For entry in 2018

ENGLISH

Time: 1 hour

Candidate's name:

Answers should be written on lined paper.

The first **10 minutes** should be spent reading the text in Section A.

- Section A asks you to read and analyse an unfamiliar text.
- Section B is a writing task.

You are advised to spend just under **25 minutes** on each section. Use the last few minutes to read over what you have written and correct any mistakes. The quality of your writing will be assessed in both sections.

SECTION A: READING

The following passage is taken from **Shackleton's Boat Journey**, an account of an expedition across unexplored parts of the Antarctic, led by Sir Ernest Shackleton in 1916.

Cheers, yells, and arm-wavings from the boats and shore were answered by us to the full extent of our lungs.

It was half an hour past noon. I steered north for the open sea. We were off. The sun shone, the sea sparkled, a fresh west wind blew, and our spirits were high. Elephant Island was opening out astern in majesty of glittering snowy peaks and uplands, fronted by glacier walls and towering cliffs. To the east, Cornwallis and Clarence Islands were revealed two beautiful, serene, and stately virgins with soft mauve wreaths and veils of misty clouds around their brows and shoulders. Around us, droves and lines of gentoo penguins, with a few seals, reassured us that the party left behind would get food. We felt more comfortable in our minds.

Our speed was nearly three knots. We heeled a little to windward, and so as soon as we cleared the land, we shipped seas that wetted us—oilskins and sea boots being things of the past. This was our baptism—the beginning of the ordeal by water.

Two hours later we reached the stream of ice that we had seen from the lookout hill. We passed several bergs, some grounded. We turned east, ran before the wind along the stream of broken old pack, and looked for the gap before mentioned.

Great fragments and hummocks of very old floes, worn, broken-down, and melted into all sorts of grotesque and wondrous shapes, were heaving, bowing, curtseying, and jostling on the long westerly swell.

They rose and fell on the heaving sea, drawing deceptively apart, then closing with a thud that would have smashed our boat like a gas mantle between thumb and finger. Castles, towers, and churches swayed unsteadily around us. Small pieces gathered and rattled against the boat. Swans of weird shape pecked at our planks, a gondola steered by a giraffe ran foul of us, which much amused a duck sitting on a crocodile's head. Just then a bear, leaning over the top of a mosque nearly clawed our sail. An elephant, about to spring from a Swiss chalet on to a battleship's deck, took no notice at all; but a hyena, pulling a lion's teeth, laughed so much that he fell into the sea, whereupon a sea boot and three real penguins sailed lazily through a lovely archway to see what was to do, by the shores of a floe littered with the ruins of a beautiful white city and surrounded by huge mushrooms with thick stalks. All the strange, fantastic shapes rose and fell in stately cadence, with a rustling, whispering sound and hollow echoes to the thudding seas, dear green at the water line, shading to a deep, dark blue far below, all snowy purity and cool blue shadows above.

There is a great fascination in watching hill after hill of snow-clad floes with weird but lovely shapes bearing down on you, then vanishing in the hollows, to reappear in endless succession.

An hour's run brought us to the gap: now strewn with lumps and fragments of ice. Turning north we sailed a little way through, but the clouts from the ice becoming too heavy we lowered the sails and pulled—uncomfortable work in a cramped position on top of our jury-rigged deck covering.

To our great relief we cleared the stream just before dark, and set sail, Elephant Island a pale shadow astern. We passed a few more lumps till 10 P.M., after which we saw not a single piece of ice until we reached South Georgia. This was a pleasant surprise. We were well content to be finished with our stubborn white foe. We did not know that later we were to long for a lump to assuage our thirst.



Shackleton and his men commence their 720-mile journey by launching from Elephant Island.

As we cleared the stream, the wind shifted to the southeast, our starboard quarter. Sir Ernest wisely wanted me to make due north to avoid the ice and get less frigid weather.

He sent the others below to get some warmth and sleep in the reindeer-skin bags while we kept a sharp lookout for ice. I steered; he sat beside me. We huddled close together for warmth, for by midnight the sea was rising, and every other wave that hit her came over, wetting us through and through. Cold and clear, with the Southern Cross high overhead, we held her north by the stars, that swept in glittering procession over the Atlantic towards the Pacific. While I steered, his arm thrown over my shoulder, we discussed plans and yarned in low tones. I often recall with proud affection memories of those hours with a great soul.

Answer the following questions in full sentences written in clear, precise English. Spend about **25 minutes** altogether on this section.

1. Using your own words as far as possible, re-write the last two sentences of page one to demonstrate your understanding of the text (starting “We were well content...”). Try to write no more than six lines. [5]
2. What does the author convey about the experience of sailing through ice in the fifth and sixth paragraphs? (from “Great fragments...” to “..blue shadows above”). Support your ideas with evidence from the text, discussing the language that he uses. [10]
3. Which other parts of the passage seem to you particularly effective? Again, remember to refer to details from the passage to support your points. [10]

[Total for Section A: 25 marks]

Now turn over for Section B →

SECTION B: WRITING

Write a response to the following task.

Marks will be awarded for originality, clarity and vocabulary as well as spelling and punctuation. Take a few minutes to plan before you begin writing.

Shackleton once said that “through endurance we conquer”. How important do you think endurance of body and mind is for success in today’s world? Use plenty of examples in your discussion.

Spend about **25 minutes** on this task.

[Total for Section B: 25 marks]