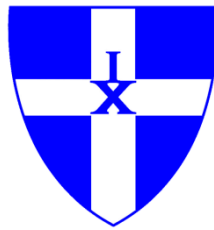


The King's School, Canterbury

Entrance Examinations (13+)

2013



English and Critical Thinking

One Hour

Section A = 30 marks
Section B = 30 marks

All questions should be answered in the spaces provided on the question paper.

NAME: AGE:

PRESENT SCHOOL:

Total:		%
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Section A

[30 marks]

All the questions in this section are testing the accuracy of your reading and your ability to identify errors in arguments. In this context an argument is understood in terms of someone trying to persuade another to adopt a particular point of view.

1. Read the passage below very carefully and answer the three questions which follow. Your answers should be in proper sentences.

Everyone knows that over-use of the car is the main cause of global warming. If we continue to allow individuals to use private cars as much as they like, the effect on the environment will be catastrophic and life on earth will cease to exist. There is a stark choice: either to die or to ban car use.

With cars no longer available, the public will overcome its reluctance to use public transport and society will become more integrated and problem-free as strangers spend more time together on buses and trains. Walking to work will improve people's health. Those who choose to live in outlying areas where there is little public transport have only themselves to blame. If they need to travel, they can make use of private planes.

Woolly-minded liberals may bleat about the loss of personal choice when the car is banned, but this will be a minority view not worthy of consideration. Until 200 years ago, humanity managed perfectly well without the car, and for our very survival we must do so again.

- (a) In one carefully constructed sentence, explain the main point of this passage (that is, what the author is trying to get his readers to agree to). [2]

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- (b) Also in one carefully constructed sentence, explain what the author means when he says that walking to work will improve people's health. [2]

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- (c) The argument contains many weaknesses. Find three of these and explain briefly why they are poor points to make. [6]

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2. Read the passage below very carefully and answer the three questions which follow. Your answers should be in proper sentences.

Some people argue that crime is genetic. However, all the latest scientific evidence shows that genes are not the cause of behaviour. In fact, criminal actions, like all actions, are ultimately the product of the environment that forged the so-called criminal’s character. It is not criminals but people in the law-abiding majority who by their actions do most to create and maintain this environment. Therefore, we cannot hold criminals responsible for their crimes: it is really the law-abiding people whose actions, and nothing else, make them alone truly responsible for crime.

(a) In one carefully constructed sentence, explain the main point of this passage (that is, what the author is trying to get his readers to agree to). [2]

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(b) Also in one carefully constructed sentence, explain what the author means by ‘some people argue that crime is genetic’. [2]

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- (c) Then, again in one carefully constructed sentence, explain what the author means by ‘the product of the environment’. [2]

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- (d) What is wrong with this argument? Give at least two reasons. [4]

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3. Rock bands

The most famous and long-lived bands come from the 1960s. Bands such as The Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd built up a large fan base over many years and were well-established before becoming famous. All of these bands benefited from this period of ‘apprenticeship’, learning their craft as well as the skills needed to cope with fame. Such a period of apprenticeship is therefore essential for any band hoping for a long career. Some more recent bands, such as the Arctic Monkeys, became popular and famous extremely quickly, their music and appeal spread rapidly by the internet. These bands have not gone through the all-important process of an apprenticeship. As a result, new bands will only have very short careers.

- (a) In one sentence, explain what is meant by ‘apprenticeship’? [2]

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(b) In your own words, briefly summarise why the author believes that new bands will only have short careers. [3]

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(c) If you were asked to criticise this argument, what points would you make? [5]

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Section B

[30 marks]

4. Fill in the gaps in the paragraph below using the words listed at the end.

Manned flights had the wealthy since
She dreamed of being towards the starry skies, of floating in her cabin
and even of the squidgy tubes of pre-prepared She rarely considered
the realities of space travel, the conditions and the physical and mental
..... endured by....., whose bodies suffered insidious effects such as
..... and progressive disorientation. Undeterred by these, she had
decided to spend several million dollars on a ticket to one of the international
galactic explorers which were currently the Earth.

fascinated	tourist	dangers	launched
orbiting	savouring	muscle-wasting	girlhood
astronauts	weightlessly	stresses	cramped
food	businesswoman	space	

[15 marks]

5. The time is set in the future. You have won a prize to be on a tourist space flight. Write an essay describing:

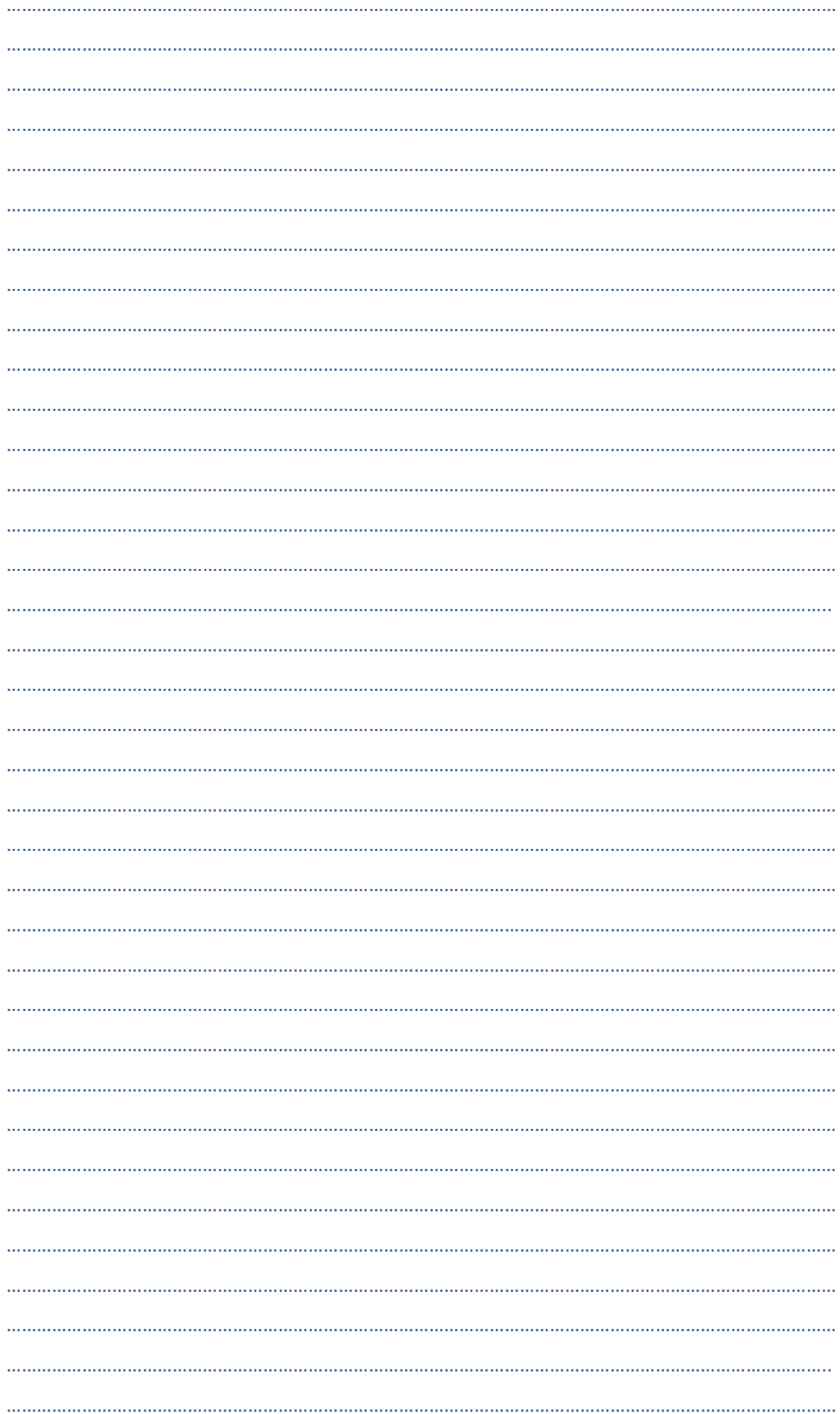
Either (a) your feelings when winning the prize

Or (b) your experiences on the flight itself

Your essay should use some (not all) of the words and ideas from the passage in question 4.

[15 marks]

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End of Examination
