WCCS

8+ Comprehension & Composition

SPECIMEN PAPER 2

Time allowed: 1 hour 10 mins

Total marks: 50

Name……

Current School……

SECTION A – COMPREHENSION (50 MINS) *(35 marks)*

The following extract is from *The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis. In the book, Digory and Polly, children who are next-door neighbours in London, are carried by magic to a strange new world. Read the extract CAREFULLY and then answer the questions in the spaces provided.

What they noticed first was the light. It wasn't like sunlight, and it wasn't like electric light, or lamps, or candles, or any other light they had ever seen. It was a dull, rather red light, not at all cheerful. It was steady and did not flicker. They were standing on a flat paved surface and buildings rose all around them. There was no roof overhead; they were in a sort of courtyard. The sky was extraordinarily dark – a blue that was almost black. When you had seen that sky you wondered that there should be any light at all.

"It's very funny weather here," said Digory. "I wonder if we've arrived just in time for a thunderstorm; or an eclipse."

"I don't like it," said Polly.

Both of them, without quite knowing why, were talking in whispers. And though there was no reason why they should still go on holding hands after their jump, they didn't let go.

The walls rose very high all round that courtyard. They had many great windows in them, windows without glass, through which you saw nothing but black darkness. Lower down there were great pillared arches, yawning blackly like the mouths of railway tunnels. It was rather cold.

The stone of which everything was built seemed to be red, but that might only be because of the curious light. It was obviously very old. Many of the flat stones that paved the courtyard had cracks across them. None of them fitted closely together and the sharp corners were all worn off. One of the arched doorways was half filled up with rubble. The two children kept on turning round and round to look at the different sides of the courtyard. One reason was that they were afraid of somebody – or something – looking out of those windows at them when their backs were turned.

Read the passage again carefully, and then answer the questions that follow in <u>full sentences</u>.

1. What do the children notice first in the strange new world in which they find themselves? (1 marks)

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2. When the author says *'When you had seen that sky you wondered that there should be any light at all'* (lines 7-8) what do you think he means? (4 marks)

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3. What does Digory think may explain the weather? (lines 10-11) (4 marks)

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4. Read lines 15-18 again. Which two things suggest that the children are frightened? (4 marks)

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5. What can the children see through the windows? (lines 20-21) (2 marks)

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6. In lines 21-22 the great pillared arches are described as *'yawning blackly like the mouths of railway tunnels'*. In your own words, explain what this means. (4 marks)

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7. Read lines 24-28. How do we know that the stone of which everything was built is old? (lines 18-28) (4 marks)

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8. **Read the whole passage again.** Looking carefully at words and images, explain how the author makes the place seem mysterious and scary. (7 marks)

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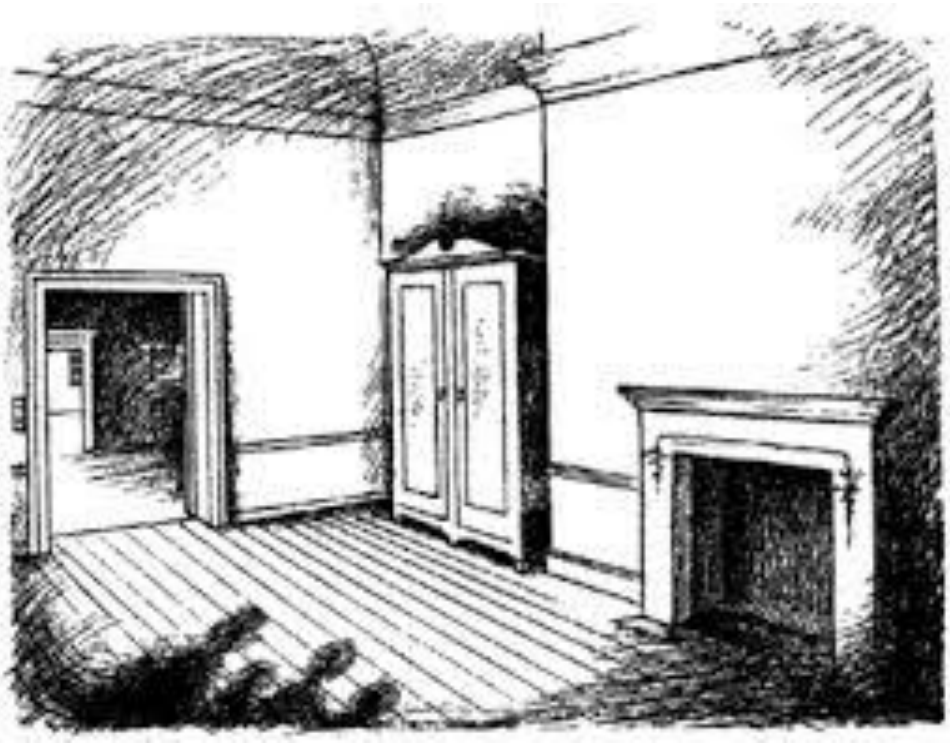
SECTION B – COMPOSITION (20 MINS) (20 marks)

Write a story entitled <u>The magic world behind the wardrobe</u>

- Use the picture below to help you.
- Use your five senses: what do you see, smell, touch, hear and taste?
- Write in paragraphs.
- Write in full sentences, using capital letters, commas, apostrophes, question marks and full stops.
- Don't write a long story; writing an interesting one – thinking carefully about the words you choose.



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Now read your story over and check it for mistakes.

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