

## Generic 11+ English entrance test 1

Read the passage carefully before you answer any of the questions.

### Reading (30 minutes)

Read the extract below then answer the questions that follow (Section A).

### Writing (30 minutes)

Choose one of the writing tasks. Plan and write a response to the task that you have chosen (Section B).

#### Extract from 'The Ice Palace' by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Sally Carrol, who is from the southern United States, is engaged to be married to Harry, who is from the northern United States. Sally Carrol and Harry are at a party in the north, visiting a palace made from ice.*

"Come on!" shouted Harry. "We want to see the labyrinths downstairs before they turn the lights off!"

They all rose and started toward the chute. Harry and Sally Carrol in the lead, her little mitten buried in his big fur gauntlet.<sup>1</sup> At the bottom of the chute was a long empty room of ice, with the ceiling so low that they had to stoop—and their hands were parted. Before she realized what he intended Harry had darted down one of the half-dozen glittering passages that opened into the room and was only a vague receding blur against the green shimmer. 5

"Harry!" she called.

"Come on!" he cried back. 10

She looked round the empty chamber; the rest of the party had evidently decided to go home, were already outside somewhere in the blundering snow. She hesitated and then darted in after Harry.

"Harry!" she shouted.

She had reached a turning point thirty feet down; she heard a faint muffled answer far to the left, and with a touch of panic fled toward it. She passed another turning, two more yawning alleys. 15

**Section A**

1. What do you think 'stoop' means (line 5)? (1 mark)

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2. Which of these words does **not** mean the same as 'receding' (line 8)? (1 mark)

- A** dwindling      **B** fading      **C** disappearing      **D** obstructing

3. To 'blunder' means to move about in a clumsy way, like someone who can't see. In line 12, 'the blundering snow' describes the snow as if it were a person. Find two other examples where things are described as people, one in lines (14–19) and the other in lines (37–42). (2 marks)

1. ....

2. ....

14. Which is the correct meaning for 'strewn' (line 39)? (1 mark)

- A** buried      **B** scattered      **C** displayed      **D** hidden

15. An adventure is normally something exciting. Find one piece of evidence from lines 37–42 that for Sally Carrol it is something frightening. Explain your answer. (2 marks)

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Sample Questions

### Section B

Choose **one** of the three tasks below and write an imaginative response based on it. You should write between one and two sides of A4.

1. Imagine what the party itself, earlier in the evening, was like. Write about it from Sally Carrol's point of view.

**or**

2. What do you think happens next? Continue the story.

For question 1 or question 2, marks will be awarded for

- showing you have understood Sally Carrol's character and situation
- appropriate and varied vocabulary
- how well you imitate the tone and style of Fitzgerald's story
- spelling, punctuation and grammar

**TOTAL: 25 MARKS**

Sample questions