



13+ ENGLISH PAPER - SAMPLE -

Time Allowed: 1 HOUR

**You should spend 30 minutes on section A
You should spend 30 minutes on section B**

**After each section, re-read your answers, making any
necessary corrections to what you have written.**

Name:
Result:
Comment:

In the following passage, a small boy, who loves reading, stumbles upon a shop where he is tempted to steal a book. Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow it.

Human passions have mysterious ways, in children as well as grown-ups. Those affected by them can't explain them, and those who haven't known them have no understanding of them at all. Some people risk their lives to conquer a mountain peak. No-one, not even they themselves, can really explain why. Others ruin themselves to win the heart of a certain person who wants nothing to do with them. Still others are destroyed by their devotion to the pleasures of the table. Some are so bent on winning a game of chance that they lose everything they own, and some sacrifice everything for a dream that can never come true. Some think their only hope of happiness lies in being somewhere else, and so they spend their whole lives travelling from place to place. And some find no rest until they have become powerful. In short, there are as many different passions as there are people.

Bastian Balthazar Bux's passion was books.

If you have never spent whole afternoons with burning ears and rumpled hair, forgetting the world around you over a book, forgetting cold and hunger -

If you have never read secretly under the bedclothes with a torch, because your father or mother or some other well-meaning person has switched off the lamp on the plausible ground that it was time to sleep because you had to get up so early -

If you have never wept tears because a wonderful story has come to an end and you must take your leave of the characters with whom you have shared so many adventures, whom you have loved and admired, for whom you have hoped and feared, and without whose company life seems empty and meaningless -

If such things have not been part of your own experience, you probably won't understand what Bastian did next.

Staring at the title of the book, he turned hot and cold, cold and hot. Here was just what he had dreamed of, what he had longed for ever since the passion for books had taken hold of him: A story that never ended! The book of books!

He had to have this book – at any price.

Adapted from 'The Neverending Story' by Michael Ende

Section A
Reading and Understanding questions

1. From reading the passage, write down, in one sentence, what you understand the writer to mean by the phrase 'human passions'.

5 marks

2. From reading the list of passions, would you say that the writer is suggesting that these passions are a positive or a negative force? **Providing detailed evidence from the passage**, write your view. Your answer should be at least two paragraphs long.

10 marks

3. Re-read the passage beginning 'If you have never spent whole afternoons with burning ears and rumpled hair...' to 'you won't understand what Bastian did next.'

Now re-write this passage, **copying the writer's style and use of paragraphs**, replacing the description of Bastian's passion for reading with another enthusiasm. For example you could begin:

'If you have never leant out of a boat and felt the wind on your face...etc.'

You should write at least four paragraphs and end with the words: 'Then you won't understand....' (The dots are for your own closing words).

10 marks

Total for this section: 25 marks

Section B
Writing

EITHER:

Write the first page of the book that Bastian Balthazar Bex so desperately wants to get hold of. Remember that it is this first page that has made him feel as he does. Your writing should aim to hold the attention of a male reader of about twelve years-old. Give your writing a title, which is also the title of the book, which Bastian is going to read.

OR:

'Enthusiasm is the most important quality needed for life to be happy.'

Argue for or against this statement.

If you agree with the statement, explain why, giving examples and evidence to support your view. If you disagree with the statement, suggest an alternative quality, or set of qualities, that you think are more important than enthusiasm and explain why you view them in this way.

25 marks

TOTAL MARKS FOR PAPER: 50