

# **11+ English**

## **Paper 1**

**50 minutes**

**50 marks**

### **Section A: Comprehension**

- Spend about 25 minutes on this section.
- Answer all the questions.
- Match your response to the marks available.

### **Section B: Composition**

- Spend about 25 minutes on this section.
- Choose one writing task.
- Make sure to check your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

## Section A: Comprehension

**Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.**

Through the steel doors we saw an incredible vision, an impossible scene from a fairytale, an enchanted property-room from the opera house of some great composer's dreams. Opposite us were three couches upon which a king had lain; all about were chests, caskets, alabaster vases, gold-embellished stools and chairs - the heaped up  
5 riches of a pharaoh who had died some three thousand two hundred and fifty years ago - before Crete had passed her zenith, before Greece had been born or Rome conceived, or more than half the history of civilisation had taken place. In the brilliant light, against the white limestone wall, the colours of all these things were vibrant yet soft - a medley of brown, yellow, blue, amber, gold, russet and black.

10 There were three beds. One was made in the likeness of a panther, the second in the form of a cow and the third had been made in the form of a mythological animal, half hippopotamus and half crocodile. They were all sheathed in gold. In addition, the king's throne was there; and on the back of it, wrought in gold and silver and precious stones, was a portrait of the king and his bride. The pharaoh's chariots also stood in the room.  
15 Too large to enter the chamber when assembled, they had been taken to pieces. They were decorated with designs in gold and glittered with inlaid gems. These were not showpieces made especially for the tomb, for their wheels showed signs of wear from the paved streets over which they had rolled.

These and many other treasures were in the first room Carter entered, which he  
20 called the "Antechamber". This room itself had two additional doors leading from it, but the blocks that sealed off the entrance to the room he called the "Annexe" had been disturbed. Thieves had been at work, yet for some mysterious reason they seemed to have done little more than toss the king's belongings from side to side as if they had been searching for a particular treasure and had failed to find it. If anything had been  
25 taken, it could not have been much; the annexe was so filled with furniture that it could not be entered.

At the right-hand end of the antechamber was another blocked doorway. On each side of it stood a life-sized figure. Both were carved of blackened wood and fashioned in the likeness of the king. The sacred snake of Egypt rose from their foreheads, and their  
30 helmets, kilts and sandals were all of solid gold. Who was this king?

Professor Breasted had been called in by Carter to identify any seals that might be found. Breasted was an expert on the seals used by the pharaohs and their officials. The

seals impressed on the plaster of the outer doors, carefully preserved by Carter when he broke his way in, were imperfect, but Breasted managed to make out the name of  
35 Tutankhamon.

From *Treasures of Yesterday* by Henry Garnett

## Questions

1) In which country is the tomb?

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(1 mark)

2) What does "gold-embellished" (line 4) mean?

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(1 mark)

3) What were the shapes of the three beds?

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(2 marks)

4) Why do you think there were modern "steel doors" (line 1) in the tomb?

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(2 marks)

5)

(a) Why had the chariots been taken to pieces?

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(2 marks)

(b) How do we know that the chariots were not made especially for the tomb?

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(2 marks)

6) Why is the tomb described as "an impossible scene from a fairytale" (line 1)?

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(2 marks)

7) Imagine you are Carter. Write a short paragraph describing how you feel when you enter the tomb and view its riches for the first time.

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(3 marks)

8) Why do you think an expert was required to identify and read the seals?

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(2 marks)

9) Explain the meaning of the phrase: "before Crete had passed her zenith" (line 6).

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(2 marks)

10) Give two conclusions that we can draw from the passage about the society in which the king lived.

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(2 marks)

11) Explain the meaning of the following words, **as they are used in the passage**:

(a) medley (line 9) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) sheathed (line 12) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) wrought (line 13) \_\_\_\_\_

(d) impressed (line 33) \_\_\_\_\_

(4 marks)

**Total: 25 Marks**





