

CANDIDATE
NAME

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Secondary AST/SEC2/ENG/P2/CA1/24-25

08/08/24

PAPER 2 Reading, Comprehension, Writing

AUGUST 2024

1 hour 10 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use the **black** or **dark blue pen**.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided
- **Do not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid/tape.

INFORMATION

- The total marks for this paper is **50**.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- No other materials are needed for this question paper.

For Teacher's Use	
Question No	Marks
SECTION A	
SECTION B	
TOTAL	

.....
Invigilator

Date.....

Section A: Reading and Comprehension

Read the text below, then answer questions 1–11.

In the serene village of Ashbrook stood "Whispers of the Past," a quaint bookshop renowned for its collection of rare manuscripts. Among them, a weathered leather-bound book with an intricate lock caught the eye of young Alex, an aspiring historian.

One misty morning, as the village lay shrouded in fog, Alex wandered into the shop. His heart filled with anticipation as he explored the shelves. The shopkeeper, Mrs. Bennett, a kind woman with a gentle smile, observed him with interest.

Alex's attention was drawn to the old book. Its elaborate cover adorned with symbols of moons and stars seemed to beckon him. He approached it and noticed a small keyhole. His heart pounded like the wings of a trapped bird. With steady hands, he retrieved a tiny key he had found in his grandmother's attic.

To his amazement, the key fit perfectly. He turned it, and the lock clicked open. Inside was a parchment, its edges frayed and ink faded. The letter, written in an elegant script, spoke of a hidden artefact buried beneath the ancient oak tree on the outskirts of the village, hinting at a forgotten lineage and a prophecy that had lingered for generations.

Driven by curiosity, Alex set out towards the oak tree, the fog swirling around him like an ancient veil. The tree stood majestic, its branches heavy with age and secrets. With a spade he had borrowed from Mrs. Bennett, Alex began to dig. The earth was damp and heavy, but he was relentless.

After some time, his spade struck something solid. Clearing the soil, he revealed a chest bound in iron. His hands trembled as he prised it open. Inside lay a collection of ancient relics and a journal. The journal belonged to Sir Geoffrey, a knight who had lived in Ashbrook centuries ago. The pages detailed his quests, his loyalty to the crown, and the mystery of his vanished legacy. It also revealed that the prophecy was merely a tale to safeguard the artefacts from those who sought power.

Alex closed the journal, his mind whirling with the weight of Sir Geoffrey's adventures. As he made his way back to the shop, the fog began to lift, and the first light of dawn bathed the village in a golden hue. He returned the journal to Mrs. Bennett, who was revealed to be a descendant of Sir Geoffrey.

The discovery brought new life and pride to Ashbrook, and the prophecy was dispelled. Alex's name became associated with bravery and curiosity, and he realised that the true treasure was not the relics but the history and heritage that connected the people of Ashbrook.

As he left the shop, the old book's lock clicked shut, sealing its secrets once more.

- 1 What is the significance of the bookshop's name "Whispers of the Past"? Explain using textual evidence.

[2]

- 2 How does the author's description of the atmosphere of the village on the morning Alex discovered the book help to convey the mood of the story. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

[2]

- 3 Using textual evidence, explain the meaning of "elaborate cover" as used in the text.

[2]

- 4 How does the author create a sense of mystery and anticipation when describing the old book? Provide textual evidence to support your answer.

[3]

- 5 What drives Alex to explore the ancient oak tree despite the challenges he faces? Provide textual evidence to support your answer.

[2]

- 6** What role does the oak tree play in the story? Provide textual evidence to support your answer.

[2]

- 7** What do we learn about Sir Geoffrey's character from his journal? Provide textual evidence to support your answer.

[2]

- 8** Identify the following sentences as declarative, interrogative, imperative, or exclamatory:

a: "To his amazement, the key fit perfectly."

[1]

b: "Inside lay a collection of ancient relics and a journal."

[1]

- 9** Rewrite the following sentences using the passive voice:

a: "Alex began to dig with a spade he had borrowed from Mrs. Bennett."

[1]

b: "The journal belonged to Sir Geoffrey."

[1]

- 10** Rewrite the following sentence and correct all errors: "'Alex was amaze by the old books elaborate cover and knew it holds many secrets."

[2]

- 11** What is the main theme of the story? How is this theme conveyed through the events and characters?

[2]

- 12** Discuss the symbolic significance of the old book's lock in the story. How does it relate to the theme of the story?

[2]

Section B: Writing

- 1** Write a fiction piece in the same style as the text above. You may write on any topic you choose, but your story must end with the line “As he walked away from the house, he knew there would never return there”. The success of your plot will depend on how well this last line encapsulates your story.

Total marks [25]

Space for your notes:

[illegible]

[illegible]

