



# OUNDLE

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School

2015 Junior Entrance Examination

## English

Time allowed: **1 hour**

### *Instructions*

- *Please write your name at the top of each piece of paper you use*
- *Answer as many questions as you can*
- *There are two 30 minute Sections: Section A and Section B*
- *Answer in full sentences unless asked to do otherwise*
- *Accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be evaluated although there is not a specific mark allocation for these elements*
- *While accuracy is desirable throughout the paper, it will be particularly noted in Section B*
- *Remember to leave yourself enough time to check your work*
- *Dictionaries are not allowed*

*Good Luck*

## Section A 30 Minutes

Read the passage and answer the questions which follow.

Now a strange, new dread was seizing me as I went slowly up Watling Street, for I knew my Dublin like the back of my hand : the dread increased now with every step, for deep within me an instinct warned me – that I was walking into a trap. There was no basis<sup>1</sup> for this fear, yet it was enhanced by the very silence  
5 of the sleeping city, by the very fullness of the moon in this criss-cross, baying moonbeam of a night. And then, quite suddenly, the sky was blanketed : blackness, a pitch darkness fell over the streets. I stopped, in utter loneliness and spine-chilling fear, and listened.

I heard, in a little sigh of the wind, the bass whisper of a man.  
10 I looked up. Black clouds were rushing over the moon, and in that lonely darkness I backed away to a wall, my hands outspread, my heart pounding. For the first time in my life I knew real and absolute fear : the chilling numbness that freezes the muscles, forbidding movement.

Yet somehow, in this obliterating blackness, I had to find Thomas Street.  
15 And then, from the direction of the stables behind Watling Street, came the iron-tipped rasp of a boot : faint whispering, I heard, and sighing. I stiffened, flattening my body into the shadows of the wall, and a hand rasped the brickwork within a yard of me, like the hand of a blind man scours<sup>2</sup> as he feels his way.

Close to me in this merciless blackness of night, a man was breathing.  
20 Behind me ; behind the very wall against which I was flattened, I heard the dull tread of measured steps, and the creak of a door. And I knew that although these enemies were invisible to me, they were slowly, inexorably surrounding me, drawing a net about me from which there was no escape.

It was the fear of the unknown that was numbing my senses. Had they  
25 been a score of men, in daylight, I could have made a fight of it. But now I shrank from the evil like a man condemned<sup>3</sup>.

I sensed, rather than saw the man standing directly before me. And even as I clenched my good hand for the attack, a match was struck, lighting his face.  
30 Momentarily, the darkness was banished : I saw that face in redness and shadow and stared into it with a new and nameless fear.

Bracing myself against the wall, I hooked hard. The face drifted away, then sank under the blow.

“Take him,” came a whisper.  
35 And they rushed from all sides, feeling for me, clubbing me to my knees. In a clatter of boots they came, their fists thudding into me ; pulling me down, they pinned me there. Six men held me ; it was impossible to move.

From *The White Cockade* by Alexander Cordell

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<sup>1</sup> Basis: foundation or reason

<sup>2</sup> Scours: rubs

<sup>3</sup> Condemned: sentenced to death

Section A Questions

- 1) Explain, with reference to the first paragraph (lines 1-8), why the speaker is afraid. (2 marks)
- 2) Explain what you understand by:  
"There was no basis for this fear, yet it was enhanced by the very silence of the sleeping city, by the very fullness of the moon in this criss-cross, baying moonbeam of a night."  
(lines 4-6) (4 marks)
- 3) In lines 9-13, what details show that the speaker is afraid? (3 marks)
- 4) Explain each of the following phrases in your own words:  
A) chilling numbness (line 12)  
B) obliterating blackness (line 14)  
C) iron tipped rasp of a boot (line 16)  
D) merciless blackness (line 20) (8 marks)
- 5) Using lines 9-24, LIST IN ORDER everything the speaker heard as he stood in hiding. (4 marks - ½ mark per point)
- 6) Why were his enemies invisible? (1 mark)
- 7) Explain in your own words what you understand by:  
"...they were slowly, inexorably surrounding me, drawing a net about me from which there was no escape." Lines 23-24 (2 marks)
- 8) What in the passage suggests that, normally, the speaker was a brave young man? (2 marks)
- 9) How is the speaker able to see one of the attackers in the darkness? (1 mark)
- 10) Describe, in your own words, what happens from "I sensed, rather than saw..."  
Line 28 to the end of the passage "...it was impossible to move." Line 37. (3 marks)

Total : 30 Marks

**Please turn over for Section B**

## **Section B : Creative Response 30 minutes**

Choose **ONE** of the following options.

You should leave 5 minutes to check your work through at the end.

**EITHER** 1) Continue the story

**OR** 2) Write your own story entitled "On the Run".

**OR** 3) Describe the man glimpsed so briefly by the speaker in the extract in Section A. Use your imagination!