

## Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board.

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## School Certificate Examination.

## 4. ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

MONDAY, JULY 11TH, 1949. 2½ HOURS.

*[Candidates should answer all the questions.]**Candidates are advised not to spend more than 1 hour on Question 1.]*

## 1. Summarize the following passage in about 200 words:

The history of England, during the seventeenth century, is the history of the transformation of a limited monarchy, constituted after the fashion of the middle ages, into a limited monarchy suited to that more advanced state of society in which the public expenditure can no longer be borne by the estates of the crown, and in which the public defence can no longer be entrusted to a feudal militia. We have seen that the politicians who were at the head of the Long Parliament made, in 1642, a great effort to accomplish this change by transferring, directly and formally, to Parliament the choice of ministers, the command of the army, and the superintendence of the whole executive administration. This scheme was, perhaps, the best that could then be contrived: but it was completely disconcerted by the course which the civil war took. The Houses triumphed, it is true; but not till after such a struggle as made it necessary for them to call into existence a power which they could not control, and which soon began to domineer over all orders and all parties. For a time, the evils inseparable from military government were, in some degree, mitigated by the wisdom and magnanimity of the great Cromwell, who held the supreme command. But, when the sword which he had wielded, with energy indeed, but with energy always guided by good sense and generally tempered by



good nature, had passed to captains who possessed neither his abilities nor his virtues, it seemed too probable that order and liberty would perish in one ignominious ruin.

That ruin was happily averted. England was in imminent danger of sinking under the tyranny of a succession of small men raised up and pulled down by military caprice. To deliver the country from the domination of the soldiers was the first object of every enlightened patriot: but it was an object which, while the soldiers were united, the most hopeful could scarcely expect to attain. On a sudden a gleam of hope appeared. General was opposed to general, army to army. On the use which might be made of one auspicious moment depended the future destiny of the nation. Our ancestors used that moment well. They forgot old injuries, waived petty scruples, adjourned to a more convenient season all dispute about the reforms which our institutions needed, and stood together, Cavaliers and Roundheads, Episcopalians and Presbyterians, in firm union, for the old laws of the land against military despotism. The exact partition of power among King, Lords, and Commons, might well be postponed till it had been decided whether England should be governed by King, Lords, and Commons, or by cuirassiers and pikemen. Had the statesmen of the Convention which recalled Charles II taken a different course, had they held long debates on the principles of government, had they drawn up a new constitution and sent it to Charles, had conferences been opened, had couriers been passing and repassing during some weeks between Westminster and the Netherlands, with projects and counter-projects, replies by Hyde and rejoinders by Prynne, the coalition on which the public safety depended would have been dissolved: the Presbyterians and Royalists would certainly have quarrelled: the military factions might possibly have been reconciled: and the friends of liberty might long have regretted, under a rule worse than that of the worst Stuart, the golden opportunity which had been suffered to escape.

Adapted from MACAULAY, *History of England*.



2. Read the following passage carefully, and then answer the questions printed beneath it briefly and to the point:

Amongst the last of the departing guests the fourth and fifth brothers, Nicholas and Roger, walked away together, directing their steps alongside Hyde Park towards the Praed Street Station of the Underground. Like all other Forsytes of a certain age they kept carriages of their own, and never took 5 cabs if by any means they could avoid it.

The day was bright, the trees of the park in full foliage; the brothers did not seem to notice phenomena, which contributed, nevertheless, to the jauntiness of promenade and conversation. 10

"Yes," said Roger, "she's a good-lookin' woman, that wife of Soames'.<sup>1</sup> I'm told they don't get on."

"She'd no money," replied Nicholas.

He himself had married a good deal of money, of which, it being the golden age before the Married Women's Property Act, 15 he had mercifully been enabled to make a successful use.

"What was her father?"

"Heron was his name, a Professor, so they tell me."

Roger shook his head.

"There's no money in that," he said. 20

"They say her mother's father was cement."

Roger's face brightened.

"But he went bankrupt," went on Nicholas.

"Ah!" exclaimed Roger, "Soames will have trouble with her; you mark my words." 25

"I call her distinguished-looking," he went on, after an interval—it was the highest praise in the Forsyte vocabulary.

They entered the station.

"What class are you going? I go second."

"No second for me," said Nicholas; "you never know what 30 you may catch."

<sup>1</sup> Soames was the nephew of Nicholas and Roger.



He took a first-class ticket to Notting Hill Gate; Roger a second to South Kensington. The train coming in a minute later, the two brothers parted and entered their respective compartments. Each felt aggrieved that the other had not modified his habits 35 to secure his society a little longer; but as Roger voiced it in his thoughts:

"Always a stubborn beggar, Nick!"

And as Nicholas expressed it to himself:

"Cantankerous chap Roger always was!" 40

There was little sentimentality about the Forsytes. In that great London, which they had conquered and become merged in, what time had they to be sentimental?

(Adapted and condensed from GALSWORTHY, *The Forsyte Saga*.)

(a) What season of the year was it during which this dialogue took place? How do you know?

(b) What does the writer mean when he describes the brothers as being "of a certain age" (l. 5)?

(c) What do you suppose was the result of the passing of the Married Women's Property Act (l. 15)?

(d) What was Soames' wife's maiden name?

(e) What does Roger mean by "that" (l. 20)?

(f) Why does Roger's face brighten (l. 22)?

(g) Explain in your own words the meaning of:

(i) "The brothers did not seem to notice" to "conversation" (ll. 8-10).

(ii) "They say her mother's father was cement" (l. 21).

(h) Why would not Nicholas travel second class?

(i) Fill in the blanks in the following sentence with a suitable adjective for each (do not use the same adjective twice or one that is already in the text):

The brothers were ..... in manner towards one another, and were ..... in character.

(j) Explain the meaning of "cantankerous" (l. 40).



3. (a) Write down words opposite in meaning to the following (one word for each): *temporary*; *reckless*; *compulsory*; *hesitant*; *artificial*.

(b) By adding a prefix to the following words turn them into their opposites: *mobile*; *dutiful*; *harmonious*; *logical*; *trustful*.

(c) Form diminutives on the following words: *man*; *isle*; *hill*; *duck*; *lamb*.

4. (a) By including them in a sentence, or by any other means you prefer, make clear the meaning of **five** of the following phrases:

\* (i) To make a virtue of necessity.

\* (ii) To keep a dog and bark oneself.

\* (iii) To live in a fool's paradise.

(iv) To sow one's wild oats.

\* (v) To throw a sop to Cerberus.

< (vi) To draw a bow at a venture.

(b) What part of speech is each of the italicized words in the following sentences (you need not write out the sentences, but place the appropriate number against each answer)?

(i) He worked *hard* for his examination.

(ii) The sailor gallantly took his place on the *outside*.

(iii) *Round* the corner came a Tiger tank.

(iv) You must either replace the money *or* resign.

(v) They looked forward to his *homecoming* very eagerly.

[Turn over



5. (a) Write out the following sentences, correcting any mistakes you find in them:

(i) It looks like he'll have to lay there until he recovers consciousness.

(ii) Being unaware of its significance, the ceremony disinterested him.

(iii) Having at last got to London, he met his friend who he had not seen for years.

(iv) He abandoned the world and all it's works, convinced that life was nothing but an allusion.

(b) Punctuate the following passage, divide it into paragraphs, and supply capital letters:

will you do it hissed the villain giving his victims arm another twist oh screamed the victim if youll stop ill do what you want.