

Surname:	Candidate number:
First name:	
School:	

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KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL
WIMBLEDON

11+ for 2024 entry
Pre-test for 2026 entry
English

SPECIMEN PAPER

50 Minutes

Read the passage below and answer ALL the following questions.

- You should spend about 30 minutes on Section A, leaving at least 10 minutes to answer Question 5.
- You should spend about 20 minutes on Section B, leaving about 5 minutes to check your spelling, punctuation and grammar for this question.

At the heart of the wood, Elvira found what she was looking for: a two storeyed red brick house, a quarter of its tiled roof gone, as though untidily pecked at by some gigantic bird! A house with cobwebbed windows, cracked or glassless, and a front door that tapped in the breeze like a thoughtful finger.

- 5 With a dry mouth and a drumming heart that she normally associated with birthdays or Christmas morning, Elvira pushed at the front door. She found herself in a cobweb-festooned hallway, with a dimly lit staircase ahead of her.

10 Elvira was fully aware of the hazards involved in climbing a wooden stair in a building that was partly derelict. An insatiable bookworm, she devoured anything in print, including the local newspaper which specialised in detailed and colourful reports of reckless children who had fallen through the rotten floorboards of disused mills and factories. She was determined not to follow suit. Before mounting each step, therefore, she banged hard with the heel of her right boot along the whole length of the tread in order to find any weak spot. The effect was startling. Not only did her heel break through the pulpy wood at several points, but the whole building seemed suddenly to come
15 alive. There was noise and movement everywhere: above her head, in the walls, beneath her feet. Patterings. Rushings. Scufflings. Squeaks. An occasional flutter of wings.

20 "It's all right. It's only me," she called out reassuringly. And her voice echoed round the small landing. There was an immediate, profound hush. Elvira she had a vision of hundreds of diamond eyes, twitching noses, whisking tails and scrabbling claws frozen into immobility, their owners crouching petrified in the dark netherworld that was their home. "Poor little old things!" she mumbled, half-ashamed, and pushed at the door to her right. The wood was warped and swollen and it opened reluctantly with a rheumatically groan.

SECTION A (30 marks)

- Answer all questions in full sentences.
- Spend about 30 minutes on this section, making sure that you leave at least 10 minutes to answer question 5.

1. In the first paragraph, what three things about the house's appearance from the outside make it seem uninhabited?

1)

2)

3)

(3 marks)

2. In your own words, explain how Elvira feels as she opens the front door in paragraph 2.

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(3 marks)

3. Explain the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passage:

a) insatiable (*line 9*)

b) colourful (*line 10*)

c) reckless (*line 10*)

a)

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b)

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c)

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(6 marks)

Turn over

4. In paragraphs 3 & 4, what does Elvira do to make sure that she doesn't have an accident as she climbs the stairs, and what unexpected thing happens when she does this?

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(6 marks)

5. Having read the whole passage, think of THREE words or phrases that describe Elvira's character. For each, provide a line or detail from the passage that supports your opinion, and explain how it supports your point.

1)

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2)

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3)

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(12 marks)

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