



Year 6 to 7 Entrance Test

Subject ENGLISH

Time allowed: **1 Hour**

Answer the essay questions on the paper provided

Mark allocations are shown in brackets.

The maximum mark for this paper is **41 marks**

Candidate Name:

READ THIS FIRST:

First 10 minutes:

Scan the questions (on pages 4-6)

Read the Text Selection (on page 2-3).

Next 30 minutes:

- Answer the SECTION A: Comprehension set of questions (starting on page 4)

Next 20 minutes:

- Answer the SECTION B: Composition task (on page 7)

There Will Come Soft Rains

By: Ray Bradbury

The story begins describing a robotised house in the future and how it mechanically organises breakfast and chores around the house, etc. However, the people living in the house appear to be missing, as though killed by a nuclear bomb. The extract begins in the night-time...

At ten o'clock the house began to die.

The wind blew. A falling tree bough crashed through the kitchen window. Cleaning solvent, bottled, shattered over the stove. The room was ablaze in an instant!

"Fire!" screamed a voice. The house lights flashed, water pumps shot water from the ceilings. But the solvent spread on the linoleum, licking, eating, under the kitchen door, while the voices took it up in chorus: "Fire, fire, fire!" 5

The house tried to save itself. Doors sprang tightly shut, but the windows were broken by the heat and the wind blew and sucked upon the fire.

The house gave ground as the fire in ten billion angry sparks moved with flaming ease from room to room and then up the stairs. While scurrying water rats squeaked from the walls, pistoled their water, and ran for more. And the wall sprays let down showers of mechanical rain. 10

But too late. Somewhere, sighing, a pump shrugged to a stop. The quenching rain ceased. The reserve water supply which had filled baths and washed dishes for many quiet days was gone. 15

Now the fire lay in beds, stood in windows, changed the colours of drapes!

And then, reinforcements. From attic trapdoors, blind robot faces peered down with faucet mouths gushing green chemical.

The fire backed off, as even an elephant must at the sight of a dead snake.

Now there were twenty snakes whipping over the floor, killing the fire with a clear cold venom of green froth. 20

But the fire was clever. It had sent flame outside the house, up through the attic to the pumps there. An explosion! The attic brain which directed the pumps was shattered into

bronze shrapnel on the beams.

The fire rushed back into every closet and felt of the clothes hung there. 25

The house shuddered, oak bone on bone, its bared skeleton cringing from the heat, its wire, its nerves revealed as if a surgeon had torn the skin off to let the red veins and capillaries quiver in the scalded air. *Help, help! Fire! Run, run!* Heat snapped mirrors like the first brittle winter ice. And the voices wailed. *Fire, fire, run, run*, like a tragic nursery rhyme, a dozen voices, high, low, like children dying in a forest, alone, alone. And the voices fading as the wires popped their sheathings like hot chestnuts. One, two, three, four, five voices died. 30

The fire burst the house and let it slam flat down, puffing out skirts of spark and smoke.

In the kitchen, an instant before the rain of fire and timber, the stove could be seen making breakfasts at a psychopathic rate, ten dozen eggs, six loaves of toast, twenty dozen bacon strips, which, eaten by fire, started the stove working again, hysterically hissing! 35

The crash. The attic smashing into kitchen and parlour. The parlour into cellar, cellar into sub-cellar. Deep freeze, armchair, film tapes, circuits, beds, and all like skeletons thrown in a cluttered mound deep under.

Smoke and silence. A great quantity of smoke. 40

Dawn showed faintly in the east. Among the ruins, one wall stood alone. Within the wall, a last voice said, over and over again and again, even as the sun rose to shine upon the heaped rubble and steam:

"Today is August 5, 2026, today is August 5, 2026, today is..."

Fiction

Read the text in the Reading Text insert provided and answer ALL questions.

You should spend 40 minutes on these questions (including reading the Text insert provided).

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

- 1** From lines 1-6, identify what created the fire and what the House did to try and stop the fire.

(2)

1

.....

2

.....

(Total for Question 1 = 2 marks)

- 2** From lines 7-12, how does the House try and save itself?

(1)

.....

(Total for Question 2 = 1 mark)

3 In this extract the writer used language and structure to interest and engage the reader.

(a) The table below identifies three language or structural features from the extract. For each one, you should:

identify an example from the extract

explain how it interests and engages the reader.

(6)

(b) Choose one example of a different type of language or structural feature from the extract and fill in the last row of the table.

(3)

Type of language or or structure	Example	Explanation of the effect of the language or structure
<i>Personification</i>		
<i>alliteration</i>		
<i>listing</i>		
Your own choice:		

(Total for Question 3 = 9 points)

- 4 In the extract the writer presents:
- the destruction of a futuristic, robotised house
 - the theme of our reliance on modern technology
 - the character of the house itself.

Explore how successfully the writer does this by giving your opinion on how well each one is presented.

Include examples from the text to support your answer.

(9)

Imaginative Writing

Answer ONE question. You should spend 20 minutes on the question of your choice. Write your answer in the space provided.

EITHER

***1** Write about a time when you, or someone you know, went to a futuristic place. You may wish to base your response on one of the images.

Your response could be real or imagined.

In your response you should consider:

- what the event was
- why you were/the person you know was invited
- interesting things about the event
- the other people involved

as well as any other ideas you might have.

**You will receive marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. You should make sure you:*

check the spelling of words you have used

try to use varied punctuation such as question marks, exclamation marks, semicolons, commas

try to use different types of sentence such as questions, commands, exclamations, short sentences.

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

***2** Write about an experience you, or someone you know, had when encountering a futuristic robot. You may wish to base your response on one of the images.

Your response could be real or imagined.

In your response you should consider:

- who/what the futuristic robot is/was
- why and where you were meeting them
- interesting things about the experience
- how the experience ended

as well as any other ideas you might have.

**You will receive marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. You should make sure you:*

check the spelling of words you have used

try to use varied punctuation such as question marks, exclamation marks, semicolons, commas

try to use different types of sentence such as questions, commands, exclamations, short sentences.

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)

