Read the passage carefully, then answer all the questions in Section A

The fox felt the car slow before the boy did, as he felt everything first. Through the pads of his paws, along his spine, in the sensitive whiskers at his wrists. By the vibrations, he learned also that the road had grown coarser. He stretched up from his boy's lap and sniffed at threads of scent leaking in through the window, which told him they were now traveling into woodlands. The sharp odours of pinewood, bark, cones, and needles—slivered through the air like blades, but beneath that, the fox recognized softer clover and wild garlic and ferns, and also a hundred things he had never encountered before but that smelled green and urgent.

The boy sensed something now, too. He pulled his pet back to him and gripped his baseball glove more tightly.

The boy's anxiety surprised the fox. The few times they had travelled in the car before, the boy had been calm or even excited. The fox nudged his muzzle into the glove's webbing, although he hated the leather smell. His boy always laughed when he did this. He would close the glove around his pet's head, play-wrestling, and in this way the fox would distract him.

But today the boy lifted his pet and buried his face in the fox's white ruff, pressing hard.
It was then that the fox realized his boy was crying. He twisted around to study his face to be sure. Yes, crying—although without a sound, something the fox had never known him to do. The boy hadn't shed tears for a very long time, but the fox remembered: always before he had cried out, as if to demand that attention be paid to the curious occurrence of salty water streaming from his eyes.

The fox licked at the tears and then grew more confused. There was no scent of blood. He squirmed out of the boy's arms to inspect his human more carefully, alarmed that he could have failed to notice an injury, although his sense of smell was never wrong. No, no blood; not even the under-skin pooling of a bruise or the marrow leak of a cracked bone, which had happened once.

The car pulled to the right, and the suitcase beside them shifted. By its scent, the fox knew it held the boy's clothing and the things from his room he handled most often: the photo he kept on top of his bureau and the items he hid in the bottom drawer. He pawed at a corner, hoping to pry the suitcase open enough for the boy's weak nose to smell these favoured things and be comforted. But just then the car slowed again, this time to a rumbling crawl. The boy slumped forward, his head in his hands.

The fox's heartbeat climbed and the brushy hairs of his tail lifted. The charred metal scent of the father's new clothing was burning his throat. He leaped to the window and scratched at it. Sometimes at home his boy would raise a similar glass wall if he did this. He always felt better when the glass wall was lifted.

Instead, the boy pulled him down onto his lap again and spoke to his father in a begging tone. The fox had learned the meaning of many human words, and he heard him use one of them now: "NO." Often the "no" word was linked to one of the two names he knew: his own and his boy's. He listened carefully, but today it was just the "NO," pleaded to the father over and over.

The car juddered to a stop and tilted off to the right, a cloud of dust rising beyond the window. The father reached over the seat again, and after saying something to his son in a soft voice that didn't match his hard lie-scent, he grasped the fox by the scruff of the neck.

His boy did not resist, so the fox did not resist. He hung limp and vulnerable in the man's grasp, although he was now frightened enough to nip. He would not displease his humans today. The father opened the car door and strode over gravel and patchy weeds to the edge of a wood. The boy got out and followed.

Section A: Reading - 20 marks

Please answer these questions. Look at the passage again if you need to.

1. Where are the boy, the father and the fox travelling to in the car?

[1 mark]

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2. *"The sharp odors of pine—wood, bark, cones, and needles—slivered through the air like blades"* (lines 4-5). What technique is this?

[1 mark]

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3. The fox is described as "*confused*" in line 18. Why is he confused?

[1 mark]

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4. How does the fox try to make the boy feel better?

[1 mark]

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5. *"The car juddered to a stop and tilted off to the right, a cloud of dust rising beyond the window. The father reached over the seat again, and after saying something to his son in a soft voice that didn't match his hard lie-scent, he grasped the fox by the scruff of the neck*" (lines 34-37). What does this paragraph suggest about the relationship between the father and the son? Explain why.

[2 marks]

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6. *"He hung limp and vulnerable in the man's grasp, although he was now frightened enough to nip."* (line 38). What is another word for "vulnerable"?

[1 mark]

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7. *"His boy did not resist, so the fox did not resist"* (line 38). What does this line suggest about the relationship between the fox and the boy?

[1 mark]

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8. How do you think the writer wants us to feel about:

   a. The fox
   b. The boy
   c. The father

Explain why and include one short quotation for each character to support your point of view.

[3 marks]

The fox:

The boy:

The father:

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9. This novel is written from the viewpoint of a fox, rather than a human character. How does the writer achieve this?

Explain why and include two short quotations from the extract to support your point of view.

[4 marks]

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10. Looking at lines 9-26, how does the writer show the fox's sense of uncertainty? Include two short quotations to support your point of view.

[5 marks]

End of Section A

Section B: Expressive Writing - 20 marks

Please note the instructions

- *Make your writing as descriptive and vivid as possible*
- *Description is as important as narrative*
- *You should aim to write approximately 1 to 1½ sides*
- *Write on the lined paper provided*
- *Write your name on the lined paper provided*
- *Plan your writing before you start: the plan will NOT be marked*
- *The accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will form part of the assessment in this section.*

Choose ONE of the following tasks:

1. **Continue writing the story from the father's point of view**.

Good answers will show:

- An understanding of what the father is likely to be feeling, and how he might express himself.
- An understanding of what might reasonably happen next. (It is unlikely, for example, that an alien spaceship will arrive in this story...)
- We have started the paragraph for you. You may use it if you wish to.

I was relieved to have finally got out of the car. I could feel my son's grief swelling silently, but I didn't put his pet down. We walked from the car towards the clearing, and … (please continue)

OR

2. **Write a story which is told from an animal's point of view. It can be about a pet or a wild animal.**

Good answers will show:

- An understanding of how the animal might experience the world.