

HIGHGATE SCHOOL



11+ Entrance Paper

Time allowed: 1 hour

- Part 1 (comprehension and analysis): 40 minutes
- Part 2 (creative writing): 20 minutes

Make sure you check your work thoroughly for mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Name	
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Teacher use only	Part 1 (out of 25)	Part 2 (out of 25)	Total (out of 50)	Grade/%

Part 1 – Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The narrator of this story has been pursuing an evil, ghostly character called Conrad Vane for several years. In this extract the narrator has followed Vane into a deserted chapel and realises that he has been lured into a trap.

Paragraph	
1	As I stood trembling before the tomb, horrified, confused and yet somehow at last in dawning understanding, I heard a sound and, turning, saw the door of the chapel, which I had left open, begin slowly, softly to close. I ran to it, reached out and grabbed the handle, as I stumbled up the uneven steps. But rattle it, twist and turn and wrench it as I might, it would not yield to me. The door was not only closed but locked, and I locked in by it, trapped in the darkening, empty chapel.
2	I fell and grasped the nearest pew, clutched at it and sat down, shaking and terrified. There was still light left in the sky; I looked up and saw it, a beautiful deep blue-grey, tantalising, beyond the high windows, the light of the outside world, which I could not reach. I got up and ran frantically round, clambered up onto another pew to see if I might get a purchase on the stones and climb up to the windows somehow, but of course I could not as there was no foothold of any kind and, in any case, the windows were barred.
3	I waited, trying to calm myself and to order my thoughts, but the feelings I had were more than those ordinary, inevitable ones that would have overcome any man in that situation. Outside the door I had sensed a watcher, a presence at my shoulder. Now, I felt it again. I knew that at my side was a presence, a looming, leering, triumphant, malevolent ¹ presence that had lured me here, where I was intended finally to be, among others long dead and buried and decayed.
4	I dared not turn my head or look over my shoulder. Instead, I looked up and ahead.
5	He was standing at the open entrance to the crypt. I saw him, shadowy, hunched close to the stone wall. His body was half concealed by the dark, heavy clothes he wore; his face was slightly averted.
6	But I knew him for my tormentor and betrayer, as well as for the murderer of my young, innocent relative, and the corrupter of how many others. That end of the dank, crumbling chapel seemed to exude ² Vane's presence, as the walls had exuded him everywhere he pursued me.
7	I was angry and filled with hatred, but most of all I was afraid, paralysed with fear of that dreadful, ghastly presence in the shadows.
8	The light was fading fast now. I could scarcely see ahead. Then, I heard the noise, the breathing, as I had heard it before; the walls seemed to heave in and out like a dreadful pair of spongy lungs, and to puff out foul air as they did so. I stood up suddenly, reaching towards the last dying light from the sky, through the windows above me, looked wildly all around that chapel for some escape and then I cried out, 'What do you want? <i>What do you want of me?</i> ' My voice rang around the stone walls and echoed mockingly back to me, and then I fell silent, and bent forwards, sobbing, my head on my hands, in fear and despair.
9	When I gained control of myself again, and raised my head, fearfully, the place was pitch black and deathly silent. I peered forwards, and saw nothing, sat still, straining my ears, and heard nothing... He had gone.

1 = spiteful, evil

2 = give off

Question 5

The following words are taken from the passage. Use each word in a new sentence which shows that you understand what the word means and that you can use it correctly. You should write a different sentence for each word.

Cunning	
Clamber	
Looming	

(3 marks)

