



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

Winchester College Entrance and Election Examination in English

2021

Monday 26th April 0900-1100

2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- Answer ALL questions in sections A and B and choose ONE question from section C.
- Total marks available: 100.
- Each section is worth 30 marks.
- You will also be marked out of 10 for the quality of your spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Total marks available: 100.
- Read all questions carefully.
- You may make notes around and/or underline the texts.

TIMINGS

- You should spend half an hour reading the texts
- You should spend thirty minutes on each section

Section A: Prose

Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

***From England, Their England* by A.G. Macdonell (1895-1941)**

This satirical novel was written in 1933 by A.G. Macdonell, who was educated at Winchester College. This is from the final chapter of the novel in which Donald, the main character, visits the College.

He visited the College buildings, and listened to a description of them by the College porter, and carried away four memories—the loveliness of the cloisters round the lovely chantry, the darkness of the rooms off the Quadrangle in which the boys sat and worked, the Important Fact, repeated several times by the proud porter, that Winchester was nearly fifty years older than Eton and, indeed, practically founded Eton, and, fourthly, the extraordinary school motto.

Every other school or university motto he had ever heard of consisted of an invocation to an unspecified Supreme Power to allow the institution to flourish, or to prosper, or to wax strong—in general, to get on in the world. It was the natural thing. Old Boys needed a slogan to remind each other of their duty to their Alma Mater, of the happy days spent there in youth, and of their natural desire not to see the numbers diminish and the place simply go to the dogs. Besides, it made a capital toast at the Old Boys' Dinners when the diners could jump to their feet and raise their glasses and cry "Floreat St. Ethelburga's, Worksop," or "Floreat St. Francis Xavier's-in-partibus, Tel-el-Kebir."

But the Winchester motto was the extraordinary one of "Manners Makyth Man." Donald walked up and down Meads, the old school playing-field surrounded with its red-capped wall of flint and chalk, and wondered about this motto. It was obviously impossible to make it a toast at an Old Boys' Dinner; it was obviously impossible to shout it at a school football match, even if the boys were organized in American fashion by a professional cheer-leader. Donald looked at the Chapel Tower, which was just visible over an exquisite, red-brick, Wren building, and thought that on the whole it was unlikely that Winchester employed a professional cheer-leader. It almost looked, Donald decided finally, as if Winchester cared more for what happened to her boys in after-life than for her own nourishment. Perhaps, after five hundred years of flourishing, that was a justifiable attitude, but it certainly was a little unusual.

He pulled out his note-book and jotted down a brief description of the scene before him, the architecture, colouring, landscape beyond the red-capped wall, and a few other details. The trees, not yet in full leaf, bothered him—in wind-swept Buchan there are few trees to bother anybody—and he stopped a small, black-gowned boy, about twelve years of age, and asked politely:

"Can you tell me, please, what that tree is?"

The boy took off his straw hat and replied with equal politeness:

"That is Lord's tree, sir."

"Lord's tree?" said Donald, also taking off his hat. "What is that?"

"It is called that, sir, because only men in Lord's are allowed to sit on the seat at the foot of it," explained the child.

"I am sorry to appear stupid," Donald apologized, "but when you say 'Men in Lord's' do you refer to the Peers of the Realm?"

"By no means," replied the infant. "Men in Lord's are the men in the cricket eleven."

"Oh, I see. The cricket eleven is called Lord's because they go to Lord's to play cricket."

"No, sir. They don't go to Lord's."

"Then why are they called Lords?" Donald was getting confused.

"Because we used until quite recently to play at Lord's against Eton."

"Ah! Now I begin to understand. Until a few years ago; how many years, by the way?"

"About seventy or eighty, sir."

Donald kept a firm grip upon himself, and tried to speak naturally as he answered:

"Quite so. Just the other day. I see. And the boys in the cricket eleven — —"

"Men," interrupted the child firmly.

"I beg your pardon."

"Men," repeated the child. "We are all men here. There are no boys."

Donald, by now quite dizzy, bowed and thanked the man for his trouble.

"It was a pleasure," replied the man, bowing courteously and removing his hat again and going on his way.

Donald, hat in hand, turned and watched him, and was immensely relieved to see the man halt after going a few yards, and extract a huge and sticky piece of toffee from his trouser-pocket, and cram it into his mouth.

1. Name one of the four memories that Donald carried away with him. [1 mark]
2. What is the name of the old school playing-field? [1 mark]
3. What do the following words mean in the context of their appearance in the extract?
 - a) Invocation [2 marks]
 - b) Institution [2 marks]
 - c) Diminish [2 marks]
 - d) Justifiable [2 marks]
4. Why do you think Donald is so relieved to see the boy 'extract a huge and sticky piece of toffee from his trouser-pocket, and cram it into his mouth'? [2 marks]
5. Why do you think the writer initially uses the word 'infant', and then uses the word 'man' to describe the boy? [3 marks]
6. Look at the conversation between Donald and the boy. How does the writer make this entertaining? Use evidence in your answer [5 marks]
7. Using quotations from the extract and analysing Macdonell's use of language for effect, what impression do you think is being given of Winchester College in this extract? [10 marks]

Section B: Poetry

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

This poem was written by William Collins, who attended Winchester College between 1734 and 1740, and is part of a longer poem imagining the lives of people in the Middle East.

From 'Hassan, or the Camel-Driver'

In silent horror o'er the boundless waste
The driver Hassan with his camels past:
One cruse¹ of water on his back he bore,
And his light scrip² contain'd a scanty store;
A fan of painted feathers in his hand, 5
To guard his shaded face from scorching sand.
The sultry sun had gain'd the middle sky,
And not a tree, and not an herb was nigh;
The beasts with pain their dusty way pursue;
Shrill roar'd the winds, and dreary was the view! 10
With desperate sorrow wild, the affrighted man
Thrice sigh'd, thrice struck his breast, and thus began:
"Sad was the hour, and luckless was the day,
When first from Schiraz'³ walls I bent my way!

"Ah! little thought I of the blasting wind, 15
The thirst, or pinching hunger, that I find!
Bethink thee, Hassan, where shall thirst assuage,
When fails this cruise, his unrelenting rage?
Soon shall this scrip its precious load resign;
Then what but tears and hunger shall be thine? 20

"Ye mute companions of my toils, that bear
In all my griefs a more than equal share!
Here, where no springs in murmurs break away,
Or moss-crown'd fountains mitigate the day,
In vain ye hope the green delights to know, 25
Which plains more blest, or verdant vales bestow:
Here rocks alone, and tasteless sands, are found,
And faint and sickly winds for ever howl around.
Sad was the hour, and luckless was the day,
When first from Schiraz' walls I bent my way!"

¹ Cruse = a clay bottle containing liquid

² Scrip = a small bag or pouch carried by travellers

³ Schiraz = city in modern-day Iran

1. What do the following words mean in the context of their appearance in the poem?
 - a) Scanty (line 4) [2 marks]
 - b) Sultry (line 7) [2 marks]
 - c) Assuage (line 17) [2 marks]
 - d) Mitigate (line 24) [2 marks]
 - e) Verdant (line 26) [2 marks]

2. Identify three powerful images that describe the landscape through which Hassan is travelling and say what makes them effective. [6 marks]

3. Choose two rhyming couplets from the poem and discuss the effect that the rhymes produce. [4 marks]

4. How does Hassan feel about his journey? Use quotation to support your answer. [5 marks]

5. In his book *Culture and Imperialism*, Edward Said writes that empires establish power over their colonies through 'images and imaginings' as well as military power. What sort of an image does Collins create of the Middle East in this poem, and what might that image reveal about the attitude of the British Empire to its colonies? [5 marks]

Section C: Creative/Persuasive Writing

Answer **ONE** question from this section.

1. *The Winchester Fellows' Library holds a copy of Conrad Gessner's Historia animalium (History of the Animals) that was published in 1603. In this book, Gessner attempted to describe all the known animals in the world, and illustrated his descriptions. Amongst the real animals, Gessner included some imaginary ones: an illustration of one such creature is below.*

Write a description of the following creature and give it a name. In your answer, you should describe:

- The animal's appearance
- Its habits and behaviour
- Its habitat and the story of its discovery



2. **Use of your local library has been dwindling for years and the decision is made to close it. Write a letter to your MP to persuade them to reverse this decision. In your letter, you should:**

- Say why the library is important to your local community
- Make the case for the importance of reading
- Outline some ways to encourage more people to use the library