



H A R R O W
S C H O O L

HARROW TEST

ENGLISH

11+ Paper

1 Hour

The enclosed examination papers must not be copied in any way or given to any other candidate.

The tests must be carried out under strict examination conditions without the use of dictionaries.

Please write your answers on the paper in which as been provided.

Section A: Reading (25 marks)

Spend about 30 minutes on this section.

Read the passage and then answer the questions which follow. Write your answers on the paper with which you have been provided. Please write in full sentences.

This passage is taken from a novel called Spud by John van de Ruit. It is written as a diary and in this passage Spud Milton, a South African boy, is about to leave home for his first day at boarding school.

1 04.30 I am awake. The first streaks of light peep through the sides of my old-lady curtains. I think I feel **nauseous**. The sheet under my legs is sticky and my heart is beating like a bongo drum.

5 04.48 The neighbours' dogs seem to be the only ones awake as they bark **savagely** at the rising sun.

10 04.50 Dad's awake. I just heard a loud shout come from his bedroom window. The dogs bark even louder. Dad **stomps** down the passage muttering to himself. (He hates our neighbours because they never seem to notice their dogs barking all night. He's always threatening to sue them or thrash them within an inch of their lives.)

15 05.00 The neighbourhood erupts as Dad fires his **supersonic** heat-seeking rose sprayer (which sounds like a ski-boat hitting a sandbank at full-throttle). The machine is so powerful that it blew Wombat (my grandmother's) Queen Elizabeth rosebush out of the ground on its first tryout. Dad, wearing only his Cricketing Legends sleeping shorts (my Christmas present) and a surgeon's mask, to protect himself from the deadly chemicals that he's now spraying into the atmosphere, points his machine at the neighbours' yard and dances like a loon on the lawn in front of my bedroom window. Maybe boarding school won't be so bad after all.

25 05.30 My father's exhausted after his early morning madness. I can hear him snoring loudly while my mother verbally abuses the policemen at the gate. The sight of my mother in her grandilla nightgown must have frightened the policemen because they end the discussion by heartily apologising to her and **scuttling** off to the protection of their police van

30

06.00 It's time. I get out of bed. Next to the door stands my huge metal army trunk, my cricket bag and my trusty Good Knight duvet. My uniform hangs from an old wire coat hanger. I reach for the blazer – it feels hot and heavy.

1. Explain what you think each of the following words mean as they are used in the passage.

- a) nauseous (line 2)
- b) savagely (line 5)
- c) stomps (line 7)
- d) supersonic (line 11)
- e) scuttling (line 25)

(5 marks)

2. How can you tell from the writer's words in the first paragraph (lines 1 to 3) that Spud is feeling nervous?

(4 marks)

3. What kind of person does Spud's dad seem to be according to the third paragraph? (lines 6-10)

(4 marks)

4. What do you think makes Spud decide that, 'Maybe boarding school won't be so bad after all' (lines 20-21).

(3 marks)

5. Why do you think the policemen have come to the house and what makes them leave? (paragraph 5, lines 10-20)

(4 marks)

6. Describe what you think Spud is feeling at 6 o'clock. **(5 marks)**

Section B: Writing (25 marks)

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

This section tests your ability to write using your own ideas and imagination. You should try to use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar and divide your work into paragraphs.

*Write no more than a page on **one** of the following:*

1. The funny things parents do.
2. Leaving Home.
3. Feeling Nervous.
4. The place where I live.
5. Imagine you are Spud (the boy in the passage in Section A): write the next three or four entries in your diary.