

Colfe's School

**12+ / 13+ Entrance  
Examination ENGLISH**

1 H R 30 M I N

## COLFE'S SCHOOL

### 12 + / 13 + ENTRANCE EXAMINATION -ENGLISH 1 HR 30 MIN

Take care with your presentation, spelling and punctuation.

#### Section A - Comprehension

You should spend about 45 minutes on this section.

*Read this passage which describes a fight between two men and then answer the questions printed below it.*

He was close up to the next stile before he saw a dark shape leaning against it. The man moved aside.

'Good evening' he said.

'Good evening!' Morel answered, not noticing.

'Paul Morel?' said the man.

Then he knew it was Dawes. The man stopped his way.

'I've got yer, have I?' he said awkwardly.

'I shall miss my train' said Paul.

He could see nothing of Dawes' face. The man's teeth seemed to chatter as he talked.

'You're going to get it from me now,' said Dawes.

Morel attempted to move forward; the other man stepped in front of him.

'Are yer goin' to take that top coat off,' he said 'or are you goin' to lie down to it?'

Paul was afraid the man was mad.

'But,' he said, 'I don't know how to fight.'

'All right, then,' answered Dawes, and before the younger man knew where he was he was staggering backwards from a blow across the face.

The whole night went black. He tore off his overcoat and coat, dodging a blow, and flung the garments over Dawes. The latter swore savagely. Morel, in his shirt- sleeves, was now alert and furious. He felt his whole body unsheathe itself like a claw. He could not fight, so he would use his wits. The other man became more ' distinct to him; he could see particularly the shirt-breast. Dawes stumbled over Paul's coats, then came rushing forward. The young man's mouth was bleeding. He stepped quickly through the stile and as Dawes was coming through after him,

like a flash he got a blow in over the other's mouth. Dawes advanced slowly, spitting. Paul was afraid; he moved round to get to the stile again. Suddenly, from out of nowhere, came a great blow against his ear that sent him falling helpless backwards. He

heard Dawes' heavy panting, like a wild beast's; then came a kick on the knee giving him such agony that he got up and quite blind, leapt clean under his enemy's guard. He felt blows and kicks, but they did not hurt. He hung on to the bigger man like a wild cat, till at last Dawes fell with a crash, losing his presence of mind. Paul went down with him. Pure instinct brought his hands to the man's neck, and before Dawes, in frenzy and agony, could wrench him free, he had got his fists twisted in the scarf and his knuckles dug in the throat of the other man.

Then suddenly he relaxed, full of wonder and misgiving. Dawes had been yielding. Morel felt his body flame with pain, as he realised what he was doing; he was all bewildered. Dawes' struggles suddenly renewed themselves in a furious spasm.

Paul's hands were wrenched, torn out of the scarf in which they were knotted, and he was flung away, helpless. He heard the horrid sound of the other's gasping, but he lay stunned; then, still dazed, he felt the blows of the other's feet, and lost consciousness.

Dawes, grunting with pain like a beast, was kicking the prostrate body of his rival. Suddenly the whistle of the train shrieked two fields away. He turned round and glared suspiciously. What was coming? He saw the lights of the train draw across his vision. It seemed to him people were approaching. He made off across the field into Nottingham, and dimly in his consciousness as he went; he felt on his foot the place where his boot had knocked against one of the lad's bones. The knock seemed to re-echo inside him; he hurried to get away from it.

Morel gradually came to himself. He knew where he was and what had happened, but he did not want to move. He lay still, with tiny bits of snow tickling his face. It was pleasant to lie quite still. The time passed. It was the bits of snow that kept rousing him when he did not want to be roused. At last his will clicked into action. 'I mustn't lie here,' he said; 'it's silly.' But still he did not move.

**ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN FULL SENTENCES.**

1. Who was the fight between? (2 marks)
2. Describe where the fight took place (2 marks)
3. Who threw the first punch? (2 marks)
4. Who came off worse in the fight? (2 marks)
5. What time of year did this incident take place? Give evidence for your answer. (2 marks)
6. Explain what each of the following words mean. It will help you to understand them if you look at how they are used in the passage.
  - a) attempted (2 marks)
  - b) staggering (2 marks)
  - c) dodging (2 marks)
  - d) garments (2 marks)
  - e) alert (2 marks)
  - f) bewildered (2 marks)
  - g) prostrate (2 marks)

**ANSWER THE REMAINING FOUR QUESTIONS IN MORE DETAIL.**

7. "He could not fight, so he would use his wits."  
Explain what you understand by this sentence. (4 marks)
8. Describe in your own words what ends the fight. (4 marks)
9. "are yer goin' to take that top-coat off.' Pick out anything which is unusual about the spelling in this and explain why you think it is different from normal spelling. (4 marks)
10. The writer says that one of the fighter's panting is 'like a wild Beast's and the other 'like a wild cat.'  
Why do you think they are described in this way? (4 marks)

## Section B - Composition

You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.

### **EITHER**

1. Write a short story which continues this first sentence:

*The mingled noise of loud music and raised voices greeted  
My ears as I opened the front door.*

Do not try to produce a long, complicated story. Concentrate on trying to write good quality accurate description.

### **OR**

2. Write an essay on the advantages of living in London.