GROUP B (8+) SPECIMEN PAPER

ENGLISH

(45 Minutes)

Instructions

1. Spend 25 minutes on the comprehension. It is worth 30 marks.

2. Spend 20 minutes on the composition. It is worth 25 marks.
Comprehension (30 marks)

Read this passage very carefully then answer the questions that follow it.

Boffy has been watching his mother cleaning the house when suddenly he has a great idea…

Boffy was already in his little workshop behind the cabbage patch. He knew exactly what he was going to do because he was a genius. In no time at all he had made a large interesting looking machine. It had a horn at one end, and a plastic sack at the other, and it was held together by a great many rubber tubes.

‘What is it?’ asked Mrs Smith, as Boffy appeared in the kitchen doorway with the new invention.

‘It’s a Dust Extractor, of course.’

‘Well, I don’t need it.’ His mother was quite firm. ‘I’ve been doing my spring cleaning this way for a good many years now, and I don’t want to change.’

‘Yes, but look how long it takes you.’ Before Mrs Smith could stop him, he had switched on the Dust Extractor.

‘It works!’ cheered Boffy.

I cannot describe the noise that followed – like a percussion band, but noisier! Anyway, it drowned Mrs Smith’s screams of ‘Stop! Stop!’

Brooms and mops rattled up into the Dust Extractor. A jar of marmalade flew off the table, followed by cups and saucers and the tablecloth. Boffy was delighted. Not all his inventions worked. This one was doing fine. He moved it closer to the cooker, which looked extremely dusty. At once the pans came to life. Off flew the lids and out popped the potatoes and the runner beans. They slithered and bumped down the tubes of the Dust Extractor. They took the boiling water with them and carried on cooking merrily inside the plastic bag. Last of all the oven door swung open and out shot half a pig. Mrs Smith was completely DISTRAUGHT.
‘You are a DISGRACE!’ thundered Boffy’s father when he came home from lunch (which was only a buttered biscuit and a cup of tea). ‘You will go straight to your room, without lunch, without afternoon tea, and without supper, and you will stay there. And while you are there you will rid your head of all nonsensical ideas.’

‘I’m sorry, Father,’ apologised Boffy. And he polished his spectacles on his shirt. It was hard being so awfully clever.

From Boffy and the Teacher Eater by Margaret Stuart Barry

1. What is Boffy’s full name?

________________________________________________________________________________________

(1 mark)

2. Where was Boffy’s workshop?

________________________________________________________________________________________

(1 mark)

3. What does the word ‘genius’ mean (line 2)?

________________________________________________________________________________________

(2 marks)

4. Which 3 things did Boffy use to make the machine?

________________________________________________________________________________________

(3 marks)
5. List **everything** that was sucked up into the Dust Extractor.

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________________________________________________________________________

(5 marks)

6. How do we know that Boffy had invented other things?

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(2 marks)

7. What makes you think that Boffy’s parents didn’t really appreciate his invention?

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(2 marks)

8. If you were to invent a machine to help someone with doing housework, what would you invent and what would you use to make it?

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(4 marks)
9. Decide if these sentences are **True**, **False** or if it **Does not say** in the story.

Put **T**, **F** or **D** by the side of each sentence.

a) Boffy thought of his great idea while watching TV

b) Boffy first tried out his invention in his workshop

c) Boffy’s mother was a lady who liked a clean house

d) Boffy was proud of his machine

(4 marks)

10. Find one word from the story which has a similar meaning to each of the following words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>precisely</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>creation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tremendously</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glasses</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>drumming</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>intelligent</td>
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</tbody>
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(6 marks)
Composition (25 marks)

Write at least a side of writing on ONE of the following tasks.

Either

1. The Best Invention in the World

Before you start writing, think about:

. what the invention looks like
. how it is used
. why it is “the best invention in the world”

Or

2. Boffy’s Next Invention

Before you start writing, think about:

. what the invention looks like
. how it is used
. what happens next