

English Entry Assessment

Name Date Score

Time: about 45 minutes. Read the passage twice before you begin answering. Answer every question in full sentences unless told otherwise. You have 45 minutes. The final questions are challenging and are meant to stretch the strongest readers, so attempt them last and give your fullest thinking. Show your working where you can. Marks for each question are shown in brackets, like [2]. Total marks: **31**.

READ THIS, THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Tomas had always believed the market was an ordinary place until the morning the clockmaker's stall appeared between the bread seller and the fishmonger, where no stall had ever stood before. The old man behind it said nothing; he simply turned a small brass key, and at once every clock on the table began to tick in perfect time, as though the whole table were breathing. Customers drifted past without noticing, their eyes sliding over the stall like water over a stone. But Tomas felt the ticking settle behind his ribs, steady and insistent, and he found he could not walk away. 'You hear it,' the clockmaker murmured, and it was not a question. 'Most people are far too busy spending their time to ever truly listen to it.'

- 1 Where exactly did the clockmaker's stall appear, and why was this strange? [2]

RETRIEVAL

- 2 Find and copy a phrase that shows the other customers did not notice the stall. [1]

RETRIEVAL / TEXTUAL REFERENCE

- 3 The clocks tick 'as though the whole table were breathing.' What effect does this comparison have on the reader? Explain fully. [2]

LANGUAGE EFFECT / INFERENCE

- 4 The customers' 'eyes sliding over the stall like water over a stone' is a simile. What does it suggest about how people see the stall? [2]

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE / INFERENCE

- 5 The clockmaker says, 'Most people are far too busy spending their time to ever truly listen to it.' Explain what he really means by 'spending their time'. There is more than one meaning here. [3]

WRITER'S INTENT / DEEPER MEANING

- 6 What makes Tomas different from the other people in the market? Use evidence from the passage. [2]

INFERENCE / CHARACTER

- 7 'and it was not a question.' Why does the writer add this short sentence after the clockmaker speaks? What does it tell us about him? [2]

WRITER'S CRAFT / INFERENCE

- 8 Identify the subordinate clause in this sentence: 'Although the market was crowded, no one stopped at the stall.' [2]

GRAMMAR: CLAUSES

9 Rewrite this sentence in the past perfect tense: 'Tomas hears the ticking and stops walking.' [2]

GRAMMAR: VERB TENSE

10 Add the missing commas to this sentence: 'The old clockmaker who never smiled turned the small brass key.' [2]

GRAMMAR: COMMAS / RELATIVE CLAUSE

11 Write a sentence of your own that correctly uses BOTH 'their' and 'there', about the clocks on the stall. [1]

GRAMMAR: HOMOPHONES

12 Use a suffix to turn 'mystery' into an adjective, then use that adjective in a sentence about the stall. [2]

VOCABULARY: SUFFIXES / WORD BUILDING

13 Replace the underlined word with a more precise synonym that keeps the meaning: 'Tomas walked SLOWLY towards the stall, unable to stop himself.' (Give a single, stronger word.) [1]

VOCABULARY: PRECISION

14 Explain the difference in meaning between these two sentences and say which is more formal: (a) 'The bloke wouldn't stop staring at the clocks.' (b) 'The gentleman could not tear his gaze from the clocks.' [3]

GRAMMAR / REGISTER / STANDARD ENGLISH

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Writing technique: Write the next THREE sentences of this story, beginning the moment Tomas decides to buy a clock. You must include: one piece of dialogue (correctly punctuated), one fronted adverbial, and one example of suspense. Label each technique in the margin.

[4]

WRITING TECHNIQUE

End of assessment. Hand your paper back when you are finished. Well done!