

English Entry Assessment

Name Date Score

Time: about 55 minutes. Answer all questions. Read the passage carefully twice. Where a question asks you to analyse language, you must name the technique, give evidence and explain the effect. You have 55 minutes. Marks are shown in brackets. Show your working where you can. Marks for each question are shown in brackets, like [2]. Total marks: **38**.

READ THIS, THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Dusk came to the city not as a colour but as a sound: the shutters rattling down over the market stalls, the last buses sighing at the kerb, the slow retreat of footsteps into doorways. Asha pressed her forehead to the cold window of the bus and watched the streetlamps stutter into life, one by one, as though the city were learning to speak again after a long silence. She had lived here all her life, yet tonight every familiar corner seemed to wear a stranger's face. Her mother had once told her that a city is never really asleep, only pretending, the way a child pretends so that the grown-ups will leave the room. Asha was not sure she believed it, but as the bus pulled away she felt, for the first time, that the streets were watching her go.

- 1 Find and copy a single word from the first sentence that personifies the buses by giving them a human, weary action. [1]

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VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

- 2 'Dusk came to the city not as a colour but as a sound'. Explain what is unusual about how the writer describes dusk here, and why this opening is effective. [3]

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LANGUAGE ANALYSIS / WRITER'S CRAFT

- 3 Identify the technique in 'as though the city were learning to speak again after a long silence' and analyse its effect. [3]

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FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE - PERSONIFICATION / SIMILE

- 4 How does the writer show that Asha feels the city has changed, even though it is familiar? Use two pieces of evidence. [4]

INFERENCE / ANALYSIS WITH EVIDENCE

- 5 Explain the comparison Asha's mother makes between the city and 'a child pretending'. What does it suggest about cities? [3]

INTERPRETATION OF METAPHOR

- 6 What is the effect of ending the paragraph on 'the streets were watching her go'? Consider the position of this idea. [2]

STRUCTURE / WRITER'S INTENT

- 7 Rewrite the following as reported (indirect) speech: Asha said, "I will never forget these streets." [2]

GRAMMAR - DIRECT TO REPORTED SPEECH

8 Identify the word class of each underlined word: 'The lamps stutter (A) suddenly (B) into the cold (C) night.' [3]

GRAMMAR - WORD CLASSES

9 Combine these two sentences into one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction. Do not use 'and': [2]
'Asha had lived in the city all her life. Tonight it felt strange to her.'

GRAMMAR - SUBORDINATION

10 Choose the most precise word to replace 'walked' in: 'She ____ nervously into the empty station.' (a) went (b) edged [1]
(c) moved (d) came.

PRECISE VOCABULARY

11 Explain the difference in meaning created by the colon in: 'Dusk came to the city not as a colour but as a sound: the [2]
shutters rattling down...' Why use a colon rather than a full stop here?

PUNCTUATION - COLON

12 Correct the error in this sentence and name the type of error: 'Neither the trains nor the bus were running on time.' [2]

GRAMMAR - SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

- 13 Rewrite this sentence to make the tone more formal: 'The bus was dead late and everyone was pretty fed up.' [2]

REGISTER AND TONE

- 14 A writer wants to create suspense in a description of an empty street at night. Explain TWO specific techniques they could use and how each would build suspense. [4]

WRITING TECHNIQUE / ANALYSIS OF CRAFT

- 15 Write the opening of a description (3-4 sentences) of a city at nightfall. You must use a multi-sensory description (at least two different senses), one example of personification, and deliberately vary your sentence lengths. [4]

WRITING TECHNIQUE - DESCRIPTION

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