



# UPPINGHAM

UPPINGHAM SCHOOL 11+ sample English Paper

**Please print**

Your Name: .....

Your School: .....

Your Date of Birth (*day/month/year*): .....

Date today: .....

## Uppingham School – sample I I+ English exam

Section A comprehension (25 marks available)

Section B transactional writing (25 marks available)

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### Section A

Read the following opening extract from an essay by George Orwell and answer the questions that follow. Some words are underlined to guide you to find the material for the questions most easily.

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George Orwell, 'A Nice Cup of Tea' (1946)

If you look up “tea” in the first cookery book that comes to hand you will probably find that it is unmentioned; or at most you will find a few lines of sketchy instructions which give no ruling on several of the most important points.

This is curious, not only because tea is one of the main stays of civilization in this country, as well as in Eire, Australia and New Zealand, but because the best manner of making it is the subject of violent disputes.

When I look through my own recipe for the perfect cup of tea, I find no fewer than 11 outstanding points. On perhaps two of them there would be pretty general agreement, but at least four others are acutely controversial. Here are my own 11 rules, every one of which I regard as golden:

First of all, one should use Indian or Ceylonese tea. China tea has virtues which are not to be despised nowadays – it is economical, and one can drink it without milk – but there is not much stimulation in it. One does not feel wiser, braver or more optimistic after drinking it. Anyone who has used that comforting phrase “a nice cup of tea” invariably means Indian tea.

Secondly, tea should be made in small quantities – that is, in a teapot. Tea out of an urn is always tasteless, while army tea, made in a cauldron, tastes of grease and whitewash. The teapot should be made of china or earthenware. Silver or Britannia-ware teapots produce inferior tea and enamel pots are worse: though curiously enough a pewter teapot (a rarity nowadays) is not so bad.

Thirdly, the pot should be warmed beforehand. This is better done by placing it on the hob than by the usual method of swilling it out with hot water.

Fourthly, the tea should be strong. For a pot holding a quart, if you are going to fill it nearly to the brim, six heaped teaspoons would be about right. In a time of rationing, this is not an idea that can be realized on every day of the week, but I maintain that one strong cup of tea is better than 20 weak ones. All true tea lovers not only like their tea strong, but like it a little stronger with each year that passes – a fact which is recognized in the extra ration issued to old-age pensioners.

Fifthly, the tea should be put straight into the pot. No strainers, muslin bags or other devices to imprison the tea. In some countries teapots are fitted with little dangling baskets under the spout to catch the stray leaves, which are supposed to be harmful. Actually one can swallow tea-leaves in considerable quantities without ill effect, and if the tea is not loose in the pot it never infuses properly.

[end of extract]

Q1 In the first paragraph *only*, identify one each of the following parts of speech:

- a) Noun.....
- b) Verb.....
- c) Adjective.....
- d) Adverb.....

4 marks

Q2 In the second paragraph, re-read the words underlined – “violent disputes” – in their context and choose a synonym of your own to replace the underlined words, either in one or two words.

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2 marks

Q3 What do you understand by “acutely” in the third paragraph?

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2 marks

Q4 In the fourth paragraph, Orwell uses a reinforcing pattern of language: “wiser, braver or more optimistic”. What is the technical name for this pattern?

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2 marks

Q5 In the fifth paragraph, why do you think Orwell uses the word “cauldron”?

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2 marks

Q6 In the fifth paragraph, give a definition of the word “inferior”.

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2 marks

Q7 In the sixth paragraph, describe what you understand by the verb “swilling”.

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2 marks

Q8 In the seventh paragraph, what part of speech is the word “stronger”?

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2 marks

Q9 In the eighth paragraph “imprison” is a metaphor. Describe how the metaphor works.

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2 marks

Q10 What do you think is the most interesting idea in Orwell’s writing, and how does he make it interesting in its expression?

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5 marks

SAMPLE

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Section B – transactional writing

**Section B (25 marks)**

This section tests your ability to write **non-fiction**.

Give careful thought to the task and those receiving your letter or speech.

Do not be concerned if you cannot set the letter out correctly for option (1).

When marking your work we will be interested to see whether you can...

- ✓ Match the style of writing to the audience (for example, use formal language in the letter to your Head teacher, and less formal language in the speech to pupils).
- ✓ Make your writing lively and entertaining.
- ✓ Punctuate and paragraph correctly.

Select one of the tasks below.

**EITHER**

1. You have heard that your school is planning to abolish hot school lunches. From now on, pupils will have to bring a cold packed lunch to school each day. **Write a letter to your Head teacher** in which you argue **either** for **or** against the plans.

**Begin your letter: Dear Sir/Madam...**

**OR**

2. The local council has started a campaign to encourage young people to take more exercise by cycling or walking to school instead of taking the car or the bus. **Write a speech to be delivered to your classmates** in which you persuade them to walk or cycle to school.

**Begin your speech: Dear classmates...**