



13+ ENGLISH EXAMINATION

SAMPLE PAPER

This paper is in two sections.

You should answer both questions in Section A, and one question only from Section B.

You should spend about 30 minutes on each Section.

You should take care with handwriting, spelling and punctuation, and leave time to check your work.

SECTION A (50 marks)

Read the following passage adapted from *“Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone”* by J K Rowling

Answer BOTH questions which follow.

Eleven year old Harry is preparing for his first term at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, helped by Hagrid, the giant, who works at the school.

Hagrid yawned loudly, sat up and stretched.

"Best be off, Harry, lots ter do today, gotta get up ter London an' buy all yer stuff fer school."

Harry had just thought of something which made him feel as though the happy balloon inside him had got a puncture.

5 "Um – Hagrid? I haven't got any money – and you heard Uncle Vernon last night – he won't pay for me to go and learn magic."

"Don't worry about that," said Hagrid, standing up and scratching his head. "First stop fer us is Gringotts. Wizards' bank."

"Wizards have banks?"

10 "Just the one. Gringotts. Run by goblins."

Harry dropped the bit of sausage he was holding.

"Goblins?"

"Yeah – so yeh'd be mad ter try and rob it, I'll tell yer that. Never mess with goblins, Harry. Gringotts is the safest place in the world fer anything yeh want ter keep safe."

15

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[Turn over

20 "Gringotts," said Hagrid.

They had reached a snowy-white building which towered over the other little shops. Standing beside its burnished bronze doors, wearing a uniform of scarlet and gold, was –

25 "Yeah, that's a goblin," said Hagrid quietly as they walked up the white stone steps towards him. The goblin was about a head shorter than Harry. He had a swarthy, clever face, a pointed beard and, Harry noticed, very long fingers and feet. He bowed as they walked inside. Now they were facing a second pair of doors, silver this time, with words engraved upon them:

*Enter, stranger, but take heed
Of what awaits the sin of greed,
30 For those who take, but do not earn,
Must pay most dearly in their turn,
So if you seek beneath our floors
A treasure that was never yours,
Thief, you have been warned, beware
35 Of finding more than treasure there.*

"Like I said, yeh'd be mad ter try an' rob it," said Hagrid.

40 A pair of goblins bowed them through the silver doors and they were in a vast marble hall. About a hundred more goblins were sitting on high stools behind a long counter, scribbling in large ledgers, weighing coins on brass scales, examining precious stones through eyeglasses. There were too many doors to count leading off the hall, and yet more goblins were showing people in and out of these. Hagrid and Harry made for the counter.

"Morning," said Hagrid to a free goblin. "We've come ter take some money outta Mr Harry Potter's safe."

45 "You have his key, sir?"

"Got it here somewhere," said Hagrid and he started emptying his pockets on to the counter, scattering a handful of mouldy dog-biscuits over the goblin's book of numbers. The goblin wrinkled his nose. Harry watched the goblin on their right weighing a pile of rubies as big as glowing coals.

"Got it," said Hagrid at last, holding up a tiny golden key.

50 The goblin looked at it closely.

"That seems to be in order. I will have someone take you down to the vaults. Griphook!"

60 Griphook was yet another goblin. Once Hagrid had crammed all the dog-biscuits back inside his pockets, he and Harry followed Griphook towards one of the doors leading off the hall. Griphook held the door open for them. Harry, who had expected more marble, was surprised. They were in a narrow stone passage-way lit with flaming torches. It sloped steeply downwards and there were little railway tracks on the floor. Griphook whistled and a small cart came hurtling up the tracks towards them. They climbed in – Hagrid with some difficulty – and were off.

At first they just hurtled through a maze of twisting passages. The rattling cart seemed to know its own way, because Griphook wasn't steering. Harry's eyes stung as the cold air rushed past them, but he kept them wide open. Once, he thought he saw a burst of fire at the end of a passage and twisted round to see if it was a dragon, but too late – they plunged even deeper, passing an underground lake where huge stalactites and stalagmites grew from the ceiling and floor.

Hagrid looked very green and when the cart stopped at last beside a small door in the passage wall, he got out and had to lean against the wall to stop his knees trembling.

65 Vault seven hundred and thirteen had no keyhole.

"Stand back," said Griphook importantly. He stroked the door gently with one of his long fingers and it simply melted away.

"If anyone but a Gringott's goblin tried that, they'd be sucked through the door and trapped in there," said Griphook.

70 "How often do you check to see if anyone's inside?" Harry asked.

"About once every ten years," said Griphook, with a rather nasty grin.

SECTION A (50 marks)

Answer BOTH questions

- 1 Imagine that you are a goblin who has been given the job of writing a leaflet for new customers of Gringotts.

The purpose of the leaflet is to introduce Gringotts to its new customers and to advise them on how to behave in the bank, and how to get along with goblins.

You should base what you write in your leaflet on what you learn in the passage.

Your leaflet should include:

- **"Welcome to Gringotts"**, a paragraph which explains what Gringotts is, and what services the bank offers its customers.
- **"Dos and Don'ts of getting on well with goblins."** Advice to customers. This can be in bullet points or a list.
- **"Bank rules"**. Advice to customers on anything they must not do in the bank. This can be in bullet points or a list.

[25 marks

- 2 How does the writer help us to form impressions and feelings about Gringott's Bank and the goblins who run it ?

In your answer you should refer to details from the passage, and you must comment on:

- the writer's description of Gringott's Bank, outside and inside;
- the writer's descriptions of the goblins – how they look, what they do and what they say, etc.;
- the poem on Gringott's doors;
- the way the writer uses Harry's reactions to his first visit to Gringotts to help readers form impressions;
- how the writer uses Hagrid's words and behaviour to reveal his feelings, and how this then helps readers to decide what they think about Gringotts and the goblins.

[25 marks

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

SECTION B (50 marks)

Write about ONE of the following :

*(You should use **your own ideas and imagination** here; you do not need to refer to the passage you have just read.)*

Either (a) Write a story which either begins or ends with these words:

"I don't believe in magic. The supernatural? No, it's rubbish, the lot of it – isn't it?"

Or (b) The goblins' poem on the door of Gringotts refers to "*the sin of greed.*"
Do you agree that greed is a sin?

Explain in detail your views about greed.

Or (c) The beach in winter.

[50 marks