

Name.....

Date of Birth.....

Current School.....



Princethorpe College

YEARS 9 and 10

SAMPLE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

ENGLISH PAPER

ONE HOUR

Examiner's Initials	
Section A	
Section B	
Total	%

SECTION A

Read carefully the passage below and answer the questions set.

***The Need for Adventure* adapted from the Patrick Hardy Lecture given by Anthony Horowitz, November 2005**

1 'Children and reading' seems to be a hot topic. Do boys read? Are they reading less than
girls? That's the question that's being asked more and more often. Who cares? Does it
really matter who's reading what – and at a time when more and more children's books
5 are being launched with ever larger fanfares, what is it that we are all chasing? Culture,
literacy, civilisation and enlightenment? Or film deals and six-figure advances?

I'm not what you'd call a serious writer. I don't tend to promote any particularly serious
views... apart from violence in children's books. I feel strongly about that. There isn't
enough of it.

10 If I do have one role in the UK, it seems to me to be the writer for kids (boys in
particular) who don't want to read. I've lost count of the number of adults who have
come up to me and told me that if it wasn't for me their children wouldn't be reading. I
remember very vividly a French mother who came up to me at Montreuil. 'Mr
Horowitz', she said. 'My children never read anything until they read your books. And
now they've read everything you've written and they've begun to read *good* writers.'

15 I am, in short, an adventure writer – and adventure was crucial to me when I was young.
At preparatory school I was unhappy and adventure was my only escape.

I began to tell stories at night after lights out. I can't remember how many times I was
made to stand in the corridor for talking after lights out – but this was the start of my
career and I can still remember the stories.

20 At the same time, a wonderful thing happened. I discovered books. When I visit schools,
I often say that books are shaped exactly like doors. They even open like doors. And
you can go through a book just as you can go through a door and there's a whole world
on the other side.

25 The other big event in my childhood and the one thing I looked forward to every
Christmas was the release of a new James Bond film. Has there been a greater
adventurer than Bond? Has there ever been a character in fiction who has spanned fifty
years and at least two generations? Bond has survived – in part, I think – because he
appeals to the adventurer in all of us.

30 I sometimes think that the main reason why *my* books have taken off is because we are
rapidly moving towards a society in which the only place where children will be able to
have adventure is in books.

These days, we're scared for our children. No. It's worse than that. Our children inspire
fear. We're scared *for* them. We're also scared *of* them. We're scared all the time ...

What are we doing to our future if our children are so over-protected, so wrapped in cotton wool, that they have no understanding of endurance, danger or physical hardship?

35 But there is one place where children do still suffer. And that's in my books. And Alex Rider, of course, suffers more than any of them. And this is the point I'm trying to make. I believe that adventure is somehow central to the whole experience of being young ...

40 And what is my role in all this? I'm not improving children. I'm not informing them or educating them but I am getting them started. Maybe at the end of it all, that French mother was right – and my role is to introduce children to better writers than myself. As far as I am concerned that's the greatest adventure of them all.

SECTION A

- Spend 30 minutes on this section.
- Answer ALL the questions.
- Be sure to write enough to earn all the marks.
- Use full sentences.

Questions

1. Find and explain two ways in which Anthony Horowitz gains the attention of the audience in paragraph one.

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(4 marks)

2. Comment on how Horowitz intends to shock his listeners in paragraph two.

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(3 marks)

3. Where does Horowitz use humour in paragraph 3? Explain how this might make the audience laugh.

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(3 marks)

4. a) Write down the simile Horowitz uses to describe books.

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(4 marks)

6. a) What does Horowitz think is wrong with modern childhood?

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(2 marks)

b) What is he trying to do in his writing to change this?

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(2 marks)

7. "As far as I am concerned that's the greatest adventure of them all". What exactly do you think Anthony Horowitz means by this closing statement?

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(3 marks)

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(25 marks)