



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
AT LEEDS

ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION ENTRY TO YEAR 8, SAMPLE PAPER

Time Allowed: 60 minutes

Reading: 30 minutes

Writing: 30 minutes

There are two sections in this paper.
Please ensure you allow sufficient time to complete both sections.

Write your answers on the lined sheets of paper provided.

**Do not forget to put your name on every sheet. Please write your first name
and family name (surname) in BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS.**

Section A – Reading Task (30 minutes)

Read the text below and answer the questions which follow.

- 1) *How does the writer use language to create a vivid sense of the setting and conditions in this extract?*

Use quotations to support your answer.

Elizabeth Day has been sent to report on the 2005 Glastonbury Festival¹ for a Sunday newspaper.

Are we having fun yet?

Anton is standing knee-deep in tea-coloured water. He is covered in a slippery layer of dark-brown mud, like a gleaming otter emerging from a river-bed. The occasional empty bottle of Somerset cider wafts past his legs, carried away by the current. "I mean," he says, with a broad smile and a strange, staring look in his dilated eyes, "where else but Glastonbury would you find all this?"

5 He sweeps his arm in a grandiose arc, encompassing a scene of near-total devastation. In one field, a series of tents has lost its moorings in a recent thunderstorm and is floating down the hillside. The tents are being chased by a group of shivering, half-naked people who look like the survivors of a terrible natural disaster.

10 When I was told that The Sunday Telegraph was sending me to experience Glastonbury for the first time, my initial reaction was one of undiluted horror. Still, I thought, at least the weather was good. England was in the grip of a heat wave.

15 But then the rains came: six hours of uninterrupted thunderstorm in the early hours of Friday morning. When I arrived later that day, there was a polite drizzle. By yesterday, the rain had given way to an overcast sky, the colour of exhaled cigarette smoke. The mud, however, remained, and the only way to get around the 900-acre site was - like Anton - to resign oneself to getting very dirty indeed.

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You could consider:

- how the setting and conditions are described
- how the scene is brought to life for the reader

(10 marks)

- 2) *How is the text structured to communicate to the reader how the writer feels about the conditions at the festival?*

Use quotations to support your answer.

You could consider:

- how the text opens
- sentence and paragraph structures used
- how the extract ends

(10 marks)

Section B - Writing Task (30 minutes)

The below image shows people enjoying an outdoor summer popular music festival.



Look at the picture above and then write a description, or the beginning of a story based on it. Aim to make your writing as interesting as possible, using descriptive techniques to make it vivid. Try to write as accurately as possible.

You will be assessed on the content and style of your piece, as well as the accuracy and control of your writing.

(20 marks)