



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
AT LEEDS

ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION ENTRY TO YEAR 9, 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.

After a paragliding accident, Philippe is left paralysed from the neck down. Three years later, after the death of his wife, Beatrice, he decides to revisit the scene of his accident with his friend, Yves.

Paragliding

I decided to return to Crest-Voland, find the place where I crashed, and, in some way, try to exorcise the accident by flying from there in my wheelchair. Childish, I know. But my real friends were those crazy, magnificent flying men Beatrice never really liked. They were overwhelmed by feelings of guilt and I wanted to relieve them. I longed to catch a thermal* that would take me fifteen or twenty thousand feet in the air. I'd talk to my wife out loud up there, as I sometimes did at night. In the splendour of the mountain, I'd feel closer to her. I sometimes had an obscure feeling of wanting to join her. It was irrational and childish.

My friends fitted a special seat that inflated when the wing picked up speed and should cushion my landing. Yves, hanging behind my harness, had the controls. We had decided that I would give him instructions by moving my head. Head left: turn at the indicated angle; head down: brake; head up: release the brakes. Tilting my head down slightly, I signalled to Yves that a bit of brake was needed, then we were airborne.

I rediscovered the sensation of flight, or at least my head did – I couldn't feel anything with the rest of my body. At one point, Yves yelled at me that I was taking too much of a risk: we were too close to the forest. But I knew that, by skimming the treetops, we would have enough small parcels of hot air to keep us aloft.

Suddenly, we'd caught a fantastic thermal. We were in the elevator! In a few seconds we had gone up hundreds of feet. We were above the peak, wheeling in great circles. What an amazing sight. We tried to regain altitude, but the conditions wouldn't allow it, so we dived back down to the forest. We could have stayed up there forever, but Yves gestured that we had to go back. We'd been flying for more than an hour and a half. I didn't feel any tiredness. It felt like a resurrection.

We passed the last rocky outcrop and raced toward our chalet. To maintain the spirit of mature, good sense in which the enterprise had been conducted thus far, I steered Yves toward the hill above the chalet and asked him to do some hedge-hopping. We came zigzagging down the hillside, less than nine feet off the ground. What a feeling.

Yves lined us up to land against a nice headwind. Suddenly, just as we were about to touch down, the wind changed direction. We were sent hurtling at over twenty-five miles an hour. I didn't have any legs to help him; my face acted as a brake. After plowing up the ground for thirty yards or so, we came to a standstill and burst out laughing, which made all our friends who'd come to watch start laughing, too. My face was covered in blood. I bore the marks of that landing for several weeks, but I can't describe how relieved I felt.

*thermal - an upward current of warm air

In the extract, how does the writer create a sense of excitement and transport the reader into the action?

Answer as fully as you can and try to write about a page.

Please use quotations to back up your points.

You may want to consider the following points:

- 1) Details of the character's feelings
- 2) The descriptive language used and its effect
- 3) Any change in atmosphere and how the piece is structured

(20 marks)

Section B - Writing Task (30 minutes)

Look at the picture below and then write a description, or the beginning of a story based on it.

Aim to interest and engage your reader, using descriptive techniques to make your writing vivid.

Try to write as accurately as possible.



(20 marks)