



Shrewsbury School

# **SHREWSBURY SCHOOL**

## **ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (Year 10) PRACTICE PAPER A**

### **ENGLISH (1 hour)**

#### **Instructions to candidates:**

- Answer ALL the questions in SECTION A and ONE question from SECTION B.
- Always write in full sentences, paying close attention to spelling, punctuation and clarity of presentation.
- The quality of your answers will be assessed and you should think carefully before writing.
- Marks are shown in brackets at the end of each question, and should be used as guidance for the length of time to spend on each question.
- Answer on lined paper.

**Read the following passage, from Ernest Hemmingway's novella, *The Old Man and the Sea*, carefully and answer the questions below.**

*The old man has caught a fish, which he is towing behind his boat when a shark attacks.*

They sailed well and the old man soaked his hands in the salt water and tried to keep his head clear. There were high cumulus clouds and enough cirrus above them so that the old man knew the breeze would last all night. The old man looked at the fish constantly to make sure it was true. It was an hour before the first shark hit him.

The shark was not an accident. He had come up from deep down in the water as the dark cloud of blood had settled and dispersed in the mile deep sea. He had come up so fast and absolutely without caution that he broke the surface of the blue water and was in the sun. Then he fell back into the sea and picked up the scent and started swimming on the course the skiff and the fish had taken. 5

Sometimes he lost the scent. But he would pick it up again, or have just a trace of it, and he swam fast and hard on the course. He was a very big Mako shark, built to swim as fast as the fastest fish in the sea and everything about him was beautiful except his jaws. His back was as blue as a swordfish's and his belly was silver and his hide was smooth and handsome. He was built as a swordfish except for his huge jaws which were tight shut now as he swam fast, just under the surface with his high dorsal fin knifing through the water without wavering. Inside the closed double lip of his jaws all of his eight rows of teeth were slanted inwards. They were not the ordinary pyramid-shaped teeth of most sharks. They were shaped like a man's fingers when they are crisped like claws. They were nearly as long as the fingers of the old man and they had razor-sharp cutting edges on both sides. This was a fish built to feed on all the fishes in the sea, that were so fast and strong and well armed that they had no other enemy. Now he speeded up as he smelled the fresher scent and his blue dorsal fin cut the water. 10 15 20

When the old man saw him coming he knew that this was a shark that had no fear at all and would do exactly what he wished. He prepared the harpoon and made the rope fast while he watched the shark come on. The rope was short as it lacked what he had cut away to lash the fish.

The old man's head was clear and good now and he was full of resolution, but he had little hope. It was too good to last, he thought. He took one look at the great fish as he watched the shark close in. It might as well have been a dream, he thought. I cannot keep him from hitting me but maybe I can get him. *Dentuso*, he thought. Bad luck to your mother. 25

The shark closed fast astern and when he hit the fish the old man saw his mouth open and his strange eyes and the clicking chop of the teeth as he drove forward in the meat just above the tail. The shark's head was out of the water and his back was coming out and the old man could hear the noise of skin and flesh ripping on the big fish when he rammed the harpoon down onto the shark's head at a spot where the line between his eyes intersected with the line that ran straight back from his nose. There were no such lines. There was only the heavy sharp blue head and the big eyes and the clicking, thrusting all-swallowing jaws. But that was the location of the brain and the old man hit it. He hit it with his blood-mushed hands driving a good harpoon with all his strength. He hit it without hope but with resolution and complete malignancy. 30 35

The shark swung over and the old man saw his eye was not alive and then he swung over once again, wrapping himself in two loops of the rope. The old man knew that he was dead but the shark would not accept it. Then, on his back, with his tail lashing and his jaws clicking, the shark plowed over the water as a speed-boat does. The water was white where his tail beat it and three-quarters of his body was clear above the water when the rope came taut, shivered, and then snapped. The shark lay quietly for a little while on the surface and the old man watched him. Then he went down very slowly. "He took about forty pounds," the old man said aloud. He took my harpoon too and all the rope, he thought, and now my fish bleeds again and there will be others. 40

He did not like to look at the fish anymore since he had been mutilated. When the fish had been hit it was as though he himself were hit. 45

## Section A: Comprehension (30 minutes)

Having read the passage above, answer all the questions below:

- |   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | What did the old man know from watching the clouds?   | 1 mark  |
| 2 | How long was it before the shark hit the fish?  | 1 mark  |
| 3 | Explain, using your own words, the way the shark appeared in lines 6-9.   | 4 marks |
| 4 | Summarise the characteristics of a Mako shark, as described in lines 11-21.   | 5 marks |
| 5 | Choose two powerful words or phrases from the paragraph beginning "The shark closed fast..." (lines 33-40) and explain how each is used to effectively. | 4 marks |
| 6 | How did the old man kill the shark?   | 2 marks |
| 7 | What did the shark take from the old man?   | 3 marks |
| 8 | Why does the old man fear that other sharks will follow?  | 2 marks |
| 9 | How does Hemmingway encourage the reader to sympathise with the shark?  | 3 marks |

[Total marks: 25]

## Section B: Essay (30 minutes)

Answer one question from the choice given below:

- Write a descriptive paragraph about each of the following:
  - The sea in winter.
  - A visit to the zoo.
- Write an article for a teenage magazine entitled: *Courage*.
- Write a speech in which you argue for or against the proposition that "fishing is a blood sport that should not be allowed."
- Write a continuation of the story in Section A.

[Total marks: 25]

**[Total marks: 50]**

~~~~~ **END OF EXAM** ~~~~~