

Alleyn's

11+ ENGLISH SAMPLE EXAMINATION PAPER 1

One hour 10 minutes.



Co-educational
excellence

READING PASSAGE

In this story the narrator, Jacob, has travelled from America to a remote island off the coast of Wales in search of the house his grandfather spent much of his childhood in during World War Two. Jacob's grandfather was an orphan and was taken care of by a lady called Miss Peregrine, who Jacob hopes might still live in the house.

A vast, lunar¹ bog stretched away into the mist from either side of the path, just brown grass and tea-coloured water as far as I could see, featureless but for the occasional mound of piled-up stones. It ended abruptly at a forest of skeletal trees, branches spindling up like the tips of wet paintbrushes, and for a while the path became so lost beneath fallen trunks and carpets of ivy that navigating it was a matter of faith. I 5
wondered how an elderly person like Miss Peregrine would ever be able to negotiate such an obstacle course. *She must get deliveries*, I thought, though the path looked like it hadn't seen a footprint in months, if not years.

I scrambled over a giant trunk slick with moss, and the path took a sharp turn. The trees parted like a curtain and suddenly there it was, cloaked in fog, looming atop a weed- 10
choked hill. The house.

My grandfather had described it a hundred times, but in his stories the house was always a bright, happy place – big and rambling, yes, but full of light and laughter. What stood before me now was no refuge from monsters but a monster itself, staring down from its perch on the hill with vacant hunger. Trees burst forth from broken windows and vines 15
gnawed at the walls like antibodies attacking a virus – as if nature itself had waged war against it – but the house seemed unkillable, resolutely upright despite the wrongness of its angles and the jagged teeth of sky visible through sections of collapsed roof.

I gathered what scrawny courage I had and waded through waist-high weeds to the porch, all broken tile and rotting wood, to peek through a cracked window. All I could 20
make out through the smeared glass were the outlines of furniture, so I knocked on the door and stood back to wait in the eerie silence. A minute ticked by, then two. It seemed less and less likely that Miss Peregrine was there.

I circled the house looking for another way in, taking the measure of the place, but it

seemed almost without measure, as though with every corner I turned the house 25
sprouted new balconies and turrets and chimneys. Then I went around the back and saw
my opportunity: a doorless doorway, bearded with vines, gaping and black; an open
mouth just waiting to swallow me. Just looking at it made my skin crawl, but I hadn't
come halfway around the world just to run away screaming at the sight of a scary house.
I thought of all the horrors Grandpa Portman had faced in his life, and felt my resolve 30
harden. If there was anyone to find inside, I would find them. I mounted the crumbling
steps and crossed the threshold.

¹ *like the surface of the moon*

END OF PASSAGE

SECTION A: READING

You are advised to spend 35 minutes answering Section A. First, please read the passage carefully and then answer ALL the questions in this section.

1. Write down three things that Jacob can see as he crosses the bog in the first sentence.
[3 marks]

1.....

2.....

3.....

2. **Explain** how the following phrases make the forest seem unwelcoming:

a) "skeletal trees" (line 3)

b) "an obstacle course" (line 7)

[4 marks]

a).....

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b).....

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3. **Identify** and **explain** three ways in which the writer makes Jacob's first sight of the house so dramatic in lines 9 to 11? *[6 marks]*

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4. Look at the description of the house in lines 12 to 15. In your own words, explain how it is different to Jacob's expectations. *[2 marks]*

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7. Using your own words, explain how you think Jacob feels about his Grandfather.

[2 marks]

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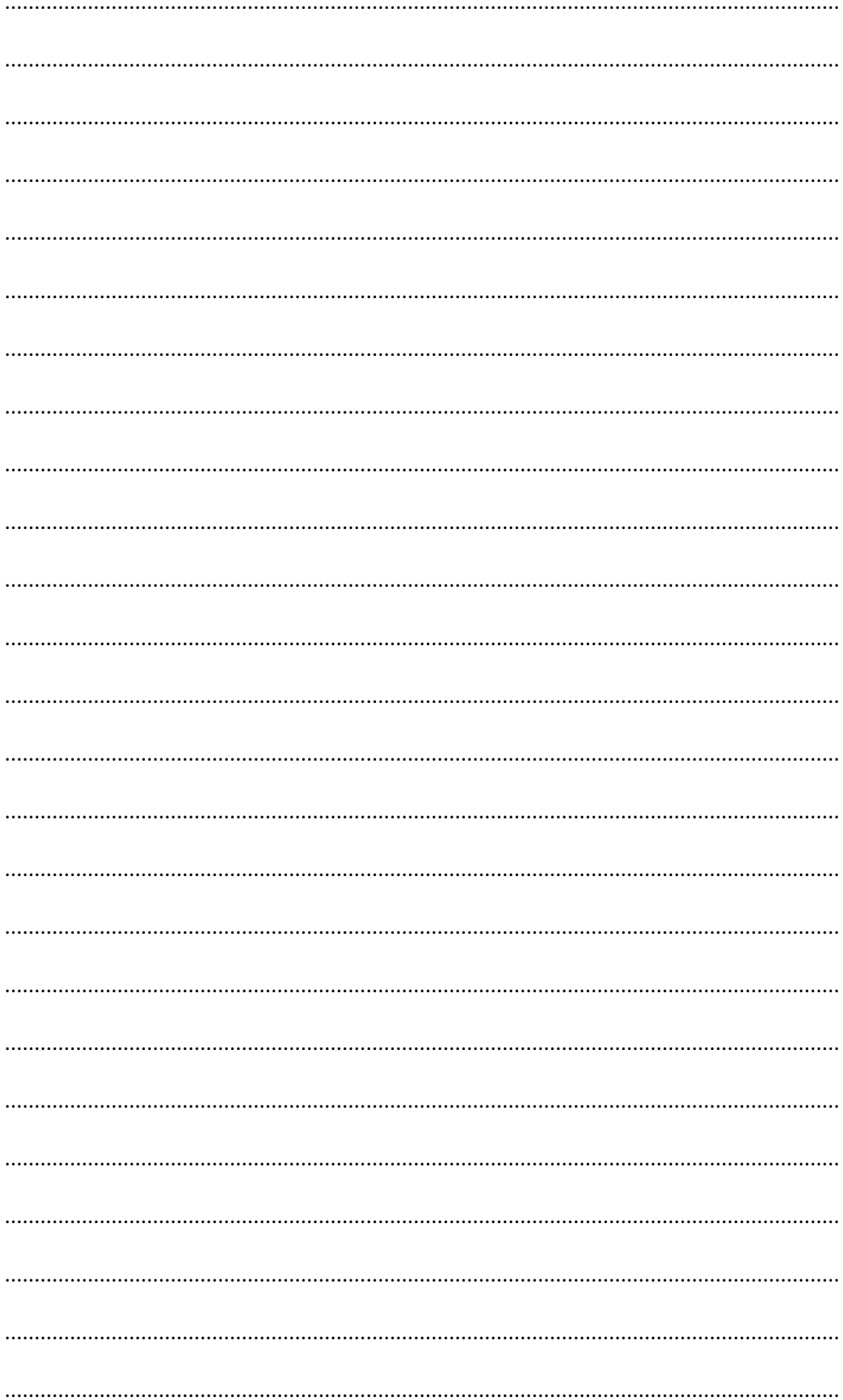
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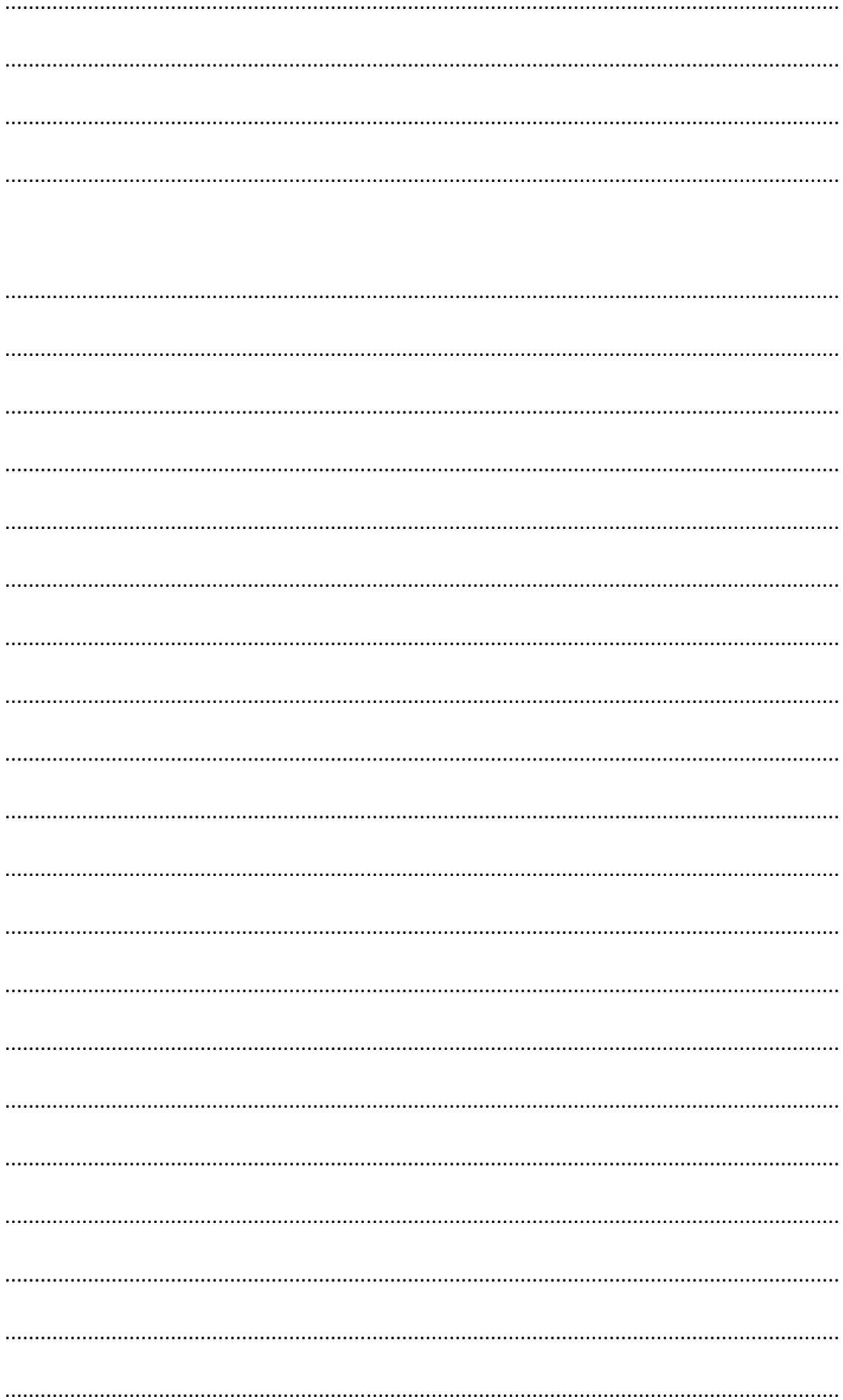
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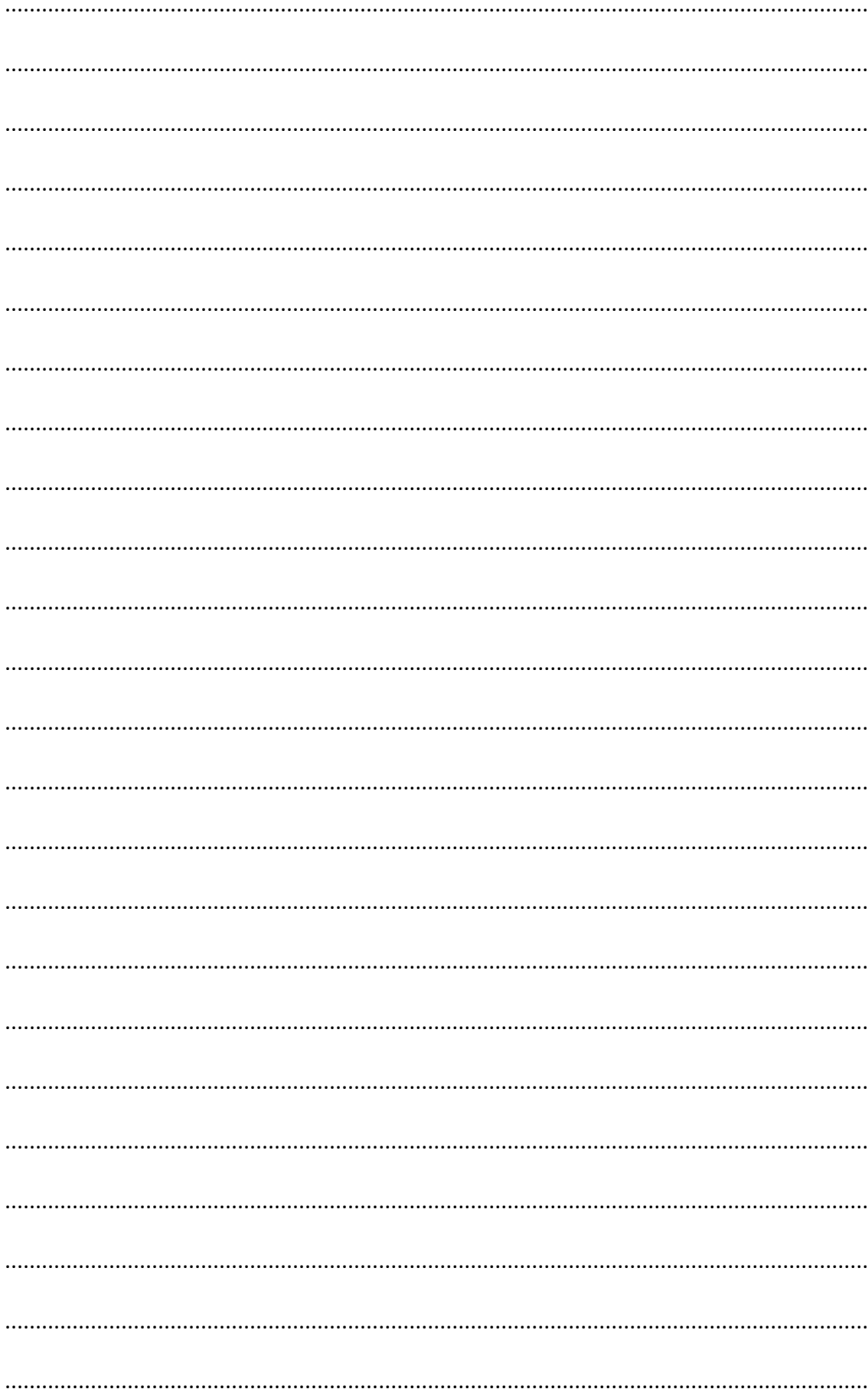
END OF SECTION A

[Section A = 35 marks]

NOW TURN OVER FOR SECTION B







END OF PAPER