



REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

13+ Pre Test Entrance Examination
January 2017

ENGLISH

Time allowed: 60 Minutes

Write your name in the box below:

Name:

English 13+ Pre-test – Reading Section

You should spend 30 minutes on this section. Read the passage below carefully and then answer the questions in the answer booklet. There is a glossary of more difficult vocabulary at the end of the extract.

This extract talks about some of the features of Vienna, the capital city of Austria.

Every school in Vienna had a picture of him on the wall, and his face, with its mutton-chop whiskers and bald head, was as familiar to the children as the faces of their grandfathers.

As well as the emperor and his court, Vienna was known for its music. Almost every famous composer who ever lived worked in Vienna: Mozart and Schubert and Beethoven and Strauss. Music poured out of the houses, waltzes were played in every café and by the barrel organs in the street – and in the richly decorated opera house, large sopranos sang their hearts out every night.

Then there was the food. The Viennese really liked to eat. Wonderful cooking smells wafted through the streets – vanilla and freshly ground coffee; cinnamon and sauerkraut. Even cucumber salad, which in other cities hardly smelt at all, had its own scent in Vienna.

In the sweet shops you could buy tiny marzipan beetles and spotted ladybirds and snails curled snugly in their shells. There were sugar mice so beautifully made that the children who bought them could scarcely bear to bite off their heads, and the gingerbread houses complete with terrible witches made of nougat, with hats of liquorice. The cake shops sold seven kinds of chocolate cake, and tarts made of vanilla wafers layered with hazelnut cream, and pastry boats filled with the succulent berries that grow in the Austrian countryside: wild strawberries so bright that they seem to be lit up from the inside, and blueberries, each one a perfect globe.

There were other things which made Vienna a splendid town to live in: Prater, a royal park shaded by ancient trees where everyone could walk or ride, and the Prater funfair, where the highest giant wheel in Europe had just been built. There was the River Danube, which curled around the north of the city; from a landing stage on the quay you could take a paddle steamer and go all the way up to Germany or down to

5

10

15

20

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Budapest in Hungary. And there were the mountains, which could be reached in an hour on the train.

But Vienna's greatest pride was in the dancing white horses which performed in the Spanish Riding School. The Spanish Riding School was not in Spain but adjoined the emperor's palace in the middle of the old town, and with its vaulting ceiling and rows of columns it was certainly the most beautiful arena in the world. The horses which could be seen there – the Lipizzaner stallions – were bred especially in the village called Lipizza in the south of the empire and only a few, the very best, were sent to the Emperor in Vienna.

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'The Star of Kazan' – Eva Ibbotson

Glossary

Mutton-chop – style of facial hair

Sopranos – a female vocalist with the highest range of all voices

Sauerkraut – a typical German dish made from pickled cabbage

Marzipan – a sweet made with ground almonds, sugar and honey

Nougat – a sweet made from sugar or honey, nuts and egg white

Quay – a platform next to or projecting from water used for loading or unloading ships

Answer the following questions. Use full sentences when you are asked to do so.

1. Who does the “him” in line 1 refer to? (1)

2. Look at lines 2 and 3. How do the children feel about the man? (2 marks)

3. Name the three types of music you would find in Vienna. (3 marks)

4. Identify three adjectives which describe the appearance of the cakes and pastries in lines 17-20. (3 marks)

1.	
2.	
3.	

5. The writer talks about the sugar mice in lines 14 and 15. What does the writer mean when she says the children “could scarcely bear to bite off the heads”? (1 mark)

6. Explain why you think the writer has described the strawberries in lines 19-20 as, “so bright that they seem to be lit up from the inside”. (2 marks)

7. Choose another example of figurative or descriptive language from the same paragraph and explain its effect. Please answer in a full sentence. (2 mark)

Example:
Explanation:

8. Which two things make Prater Park special? (2 mark)

1.
2.

9. In line 24 the writer says: “the River Danube, which curled around the north of the city.” Explain why the writer has chosen this metaphor, using a full sentence. (2 marks)

10. What makes the location of Vienna and its river so special, according to this extract? (1 mark)

11. The Spanish Riding School is mentioned in the final paragraph. What is special about this riding school? Choose two examples and explain the effect of the writer's words in each one. You will receive a mark for each example and a mark for the effect. Please use full sentences. There is a completed example to help you. (4 marks)

Example	Effect
"Vienna's greatest pride"	The writer gives the impression that this is the most impressive place in the whole city. The word "greatest" suggests this in particular. It is also emphasised by the fact that the city is described as being full of incredible things, but this is the best.

12. Imagine you are writing a tourist leaflet about Vienna. Write the headline and opening sentence of the leaflet. You should focus on the atmosphere of the city. (2 marks)

Headline:
Opening sentence:

END OF READING QUESTIONS.

TURN OVER FOR THE WRITING SECTION.

English 13+ Pre-test - Writing Section

You should spend 30 minutes on this section.

Use the planning page to plan before you begin.

Choose ONE of the tasks below and write your response on the pages that follow:

1. Copy this sentence:

“It wasn’t the first time that the fox had been in their garden.”

Then, continue the story.

OR

2. Write a short story about a character who has to look after a friend’s pet.

Remember to check your writing for:

- Spelling;
- Paragraphing;
- Punctuation;
- Descriptive techniques;
- Detailed description and interesting vocabulary;
- Using similes and metaphors that are appropriate to the story, setting and character.

(25 marks)

Write your answer on the following pages.

