



# THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, NICOSIA

## Entrance Examination

### English Language

**Monday 4 March 2024**

Time: 1 hour and 15 minutes

**Materials required for examination**

Nil

**Instructions to Students**

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Write your answers to Sections A, B and C in the spaces provided on this question paper.  
You may use a pencil or a pen.

**Information for Students**

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The marks for individual questions are shown in round brackets: e.g. (2)  
There are 3 sections in this question paper. The total mark for this paper is 100.  
Section A is worth 40, Section B is worth 20 and Section C is worth 40 marks of the total score.

**Advice to Students**

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You are reminded of the importance of clear English and careful presentation in your answers.

## SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (40 MARKS)

**Read the passage. Then answer the questions about the passage below.**

### Castles

Palaces are known for their beauty and splendor, but they offer little protection against attacks. It is easy to defend a fortress, but fortresses are not designed with the comfort of a king or queen in mind. When it comes to structures that are both majestic and well-fortified, the classic European castle is the pinnacle of design. Across the ages castles changed, developed, and eventually fell out of use, but they still command the fascination of our culture.



### *Origins and Purpose of Castles in England:*

Castles were originally built in England by Norman invaders in 1066. As William the Conqueror advanced through England, he **fortified** key positions to secure the land he had taken. The castles he built allowed the Norman lords to retreat to safety when threatened by English rebellion. Castles also served as bases of operation for offensive attacks. Troops were summoned too, organized around, and deployed from castles. In this way castles served both offensive and defensive roles in military operations.

Not limited to military purposes, castles also served as offices from which the lord would administer control over his kingdom. That is to say, the lord of the land would hold court in his castle. Those that

Castles served many purposes during the Middle Ages.

were socially beneath the lord would come to report the affairs of the lands that they governed and pay tribute to the lord. They would address disputes, handle business, **feast**, and enjoy festivities. In this way castles served as important social centers in medieval England. Castles also served as symbols of power. Built on **prominent** sites overlooking the surrounding areas, castles constantly loomed in the background of many peasants' lives and served as a daily reminder of the lord's strength.

### *Constructions:*

The first castles constructed in England were made from earth and timber. Those who constructed them took advantage of natural features, such as hills and rivers, to

increase defenses. Since these castles were constructed from wood, they were highly susceptible to attacks by fire. Wooden castles were gradually replaced by stone, which greatly increased the strength of these fortifications; however, being made from stone did not make these castles entirely fireproof. Attackers could hurl flaming objects into the castle through the windows or ignite the wooden doors. This led to moving the windows and entrances off the ground floor and up to the first floor to make them more difficult to access.

### ***Symbolic Roles of Castles:***

As the nobility accumulated wealth, England became increasingly attractive to those who sought to plunder. Attacks by Vikings and other intruders increased in regularity. In response to these attacks, castle defenses were updated and improved. Arrow-slits were added. These were small holes in the castle, large enough for an arrow to fit through, which allowed defenders to fire from nearly invulnerable positions. Towers were built from which defenders could provide flanking fire. These towers were connected to the castle by wooden bridges, so that if one tower fell, the rest of the castle was still easy to defend. Multiple rings of castle walls were constructed, so that even if attackers made it past one wall, they would be caught on a killing ground between inner and outer walls. Advances such as these greatly increased the defense of castles.

### ***Roles of Castles:***

The death of castles can ultimately be attributed to gunpowder. Gunpowder was first introduced to Europe during the 14th century, but the first gunpowder weapons were unreliable, **inaccurate**, and weak by later standards. During the 15th century, artillery became powerful enough to break through stone walls. This greatly undermined the military role of castles. Castles were then replaced by artillery forts that had no role in civil administration, and country houses that were **undefensible**. Though castles no longer serve their original purposes, remaining castles receive millions of visitors each year from those who wish to experience these majestic relics of a time long passed.

**SECTION A: COMPREHENSION:**

1. What was the **original** purpose of building castles in England? (2 marks)

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2. In paragraph two, what does the phrase, *'In this way castles served both offensive and defensive roles in military operations'*, mean? (2 marks)

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3. Aside from Military functions, what other roles did castles play in Medieval England? (Give 3 functions) (2+2+2=6 marks)

a) \_\_\_\_\_

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b) \_\_\_\_\_

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c) \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How did the construction materials of early castles change over time? (2 marks)

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5. A) Why did attacks by Vikings and other intruders increase in England during the period described. B) What was done about it? (2+2=4 marks)

a) 

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b) 

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6. What role did the arrow-slits and towers play in enhancing the defensive capabilities of castles? (2+2=4 marks)

Arrow-slits :

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Towers:

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7. What was the primary reason for the fall of castles? (3 marks)

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8. Despite their diminished military role, why do remaining castles still attract millions of tourists today? (2 marks)

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**PART B: TRUE OR FALSE (10 MARKS)**

Read the following statements and decide whether they are true or false. You must write the ENTIRE word, “TRUE” or “FALSE” on the line provided on the right of the page.

1. The first castles built in England by Norman invaders were made from stone. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Castles’ locations symbolized the lord’s power. \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Castles, made from wood and earth, were completely fireproof. \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Arrow-slits in castle defenses made it easier for attackers to break the walls. \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Gunpowder destroyed castles in Europe in the 14th century. \_\_\_\_\_

**PART C: VOCABULARY (5MARKS)**

Match the words on the left, with their definition on the right. Write the answer on the line provided. The words are in bold and underlined in the passage.

1. **FORTIFIED** ( A ) Vulnerable \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. **FEAST** ( B ) A large meal for a special occasion \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. **PROMINENT** ( C ) Imperfect/Not Correct \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. **INACCURATE** ( D ) Easily noticeable \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. **INDEFENSIBLE** ( E ) Strengthened \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION B: GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)**

**A. Read the sentences below carefully and add the apostrophe ( ' ) where necessary. (6 MARKS)**

1. The cats tail is fluffy.
2. Youre a very talented musician.
3. The teachers desk is cluttered with papers.
4. The students backpacks were scattered across the classroom floor.
5. Im very excited about the trip!
6. Marias got an important exam tomorrow.

**B. Complete the sentences with the appropriate form of the verb in brackets. (9 MARKS)**

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book when the phone \_\_\_\_\_(ring).
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ in such cold water before. (never swim).
3. My uncle \_\_\_\_\_ a new car last month. (buy)
4. We \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) my grandparents next weekend.
5. “ What \_\_\_\_\_( you,do) at the moment?  
“ I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for my test”.
6. “ Oh no! There is no milk”.  
“Don’t worry! I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the supermarket and buy some”.
7. How long \_\_\_\_\_ (you, know) each other?



**C. Change the form of the word in capitals at the end of the line. ( 5 MARKS)**

- 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ in this place is absolutely terrible. I want my money back. **SERVE**
- 2. Could you help me make a \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know which phone to buy. **DECIDE**
- 3. Even very good clothes are quite \_\_\_\_\_ in this shop. **AFFORD**
- 4. What's the name of that \_\_\_\_\_ you were singing earlier? **SING**
- 5. They have a \_\_\_\_\_ collection of stamps. **WONDER**

**SECTION C: COMPOSITION (40 MARKS)**

**Choose ONE of the following tasks. Write about 10 lines.**

- 1. Write a letter to a friend describing a person you admire. Why do you like him/her?
- 2. Write a story for your school magazine entitled ' A strange encounter'.
- 3. Describe a place that you visited and liked.

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