



St Margaret College
Half Yearly Examinations 2014

Year 5

English Written

Time: 1hr 15min

Name: _____ Class: _____

A. Reading

(20 marks)

Read the following passage carefully.

The Little Lark

The noisiest shop in the street belonged to the bird seller. The parrots screamed happily as they swung to and fro. Only one wooden cage was quiet. Inside was a little brown lark. Once it had flown high above the hills of Florence. What was there to sing about shut up in a cage?

(paragraph 1)



Young Giacomo stood fingering a few coins. "What do you want?" asked the bird seller. "A bird," said the boy, looking at a red and green parrot. The bird seller shook his head. "You don't even have enough money to buy that unhappy lark," he said. "Be off with you!" Giacomo turned away.

(paragraph 2)

Giacomo bumped straight into Leonardo, a handsome bearded man. "What is the matter?" asked the man kindly, seeing the tears in the boy's eyes. "I don't have enough money for a bird," whispered Giacomo. "I am just going to buy one. We can share it," replied Leonardo.

(paragraph 3)

Giacomo looked longingly at the brightest parrot. However, the man bought the poor little lark. "Come with me," he said and gave the cage to Giacomo. They went to a nearby house, up a steep staircase and on the roof. Around them spread the roofs and towers of Florence. "I wonder if your lark comes from there?" said Leonardo.

(paragraph 4)

For the first time, Giacomo really looked at the lark. "You may open the cage," said Leonardo. The boy's mouth fell open with surprise. "But the bird will fly away," he said. "True," replied Leonardo. "Would you want to spend your life in prison?" Giacomo shook his head. "Your money will be wasted," he said. "Nothing that gives pleasure is ever wasted," Leonardo replied smiling.

(paragraph 5)

So Giacomo lifted up the cage and opened it. The lark breathed mountain air. Its wings fluttered with excitement. Then, with one joyful leap, it was away and up into the sky. Giacomo watched it disappear from sight.



(paragraph 6)

(Adapted from *Stories of Famous Artists* by Margaret Gleave)

1. Tick (✓) to show the correct answer.

(4 marks)

1.1	The bird seller's shop was the noisiest shop because	
a	Giacomo was singing merrily.	
b	many birds were screeching.	✓
c	there was music.	

1.2	The brown lark did not sing because	
a	it had forgotten its song.	
b	it was afraid of the other birds.	
c	it was very sad.	

1.3	The lark used to fly high above the hills of	
a	Florence.	
b	Rome.	
c	Paris.	

1.4	Giacomo was	
a	a young boy.	
b	a handsome man.	
c	an old man.	

1.5	Leonardo decided to buy	
a	the brightest parrot.	
b	the unhappy lark.	
c	both parrot and lark.	

2. Tick (✓) to show whether each sentence is True or False. (4 marks)

		True	False
Ex.	The unhappy lark was brown in colour.	✓	
a.	Giacomo preferred buying a lark than a parrot.		
b.	Giacomo did not have enough money to buy a bird.		
c.	Leonardo was a kind man.		
d.	Giacomo did not let the lark free from its cage.		

3. Answer the following questions. (4 x 2 marks = 8 marks)

a) Why did the bird seller turn Giacomo away?

The bird seller turned Giacomo away because _____

b) How do you know that Giacomo was very unhappy when he went out of the bird seller' shop?

I know that Giacomo was very unhappy because _____

c) What did the bird do as Giacomo opened its cage?

The bird _____

d) Leonardo taught an important lesson to Giacomo. What was it?

4. Find from the passage. (4 marks)

a) one word which means joyfully _____ (par. 1)

b) one word which means jump _____ (par. 6)

B. Language

(15 marks)

1. Fill in each blank with a word from the box below.

(5 marks)

his	yours	ours	hers	theirs	mine
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a) Ms Elena returned the pen to me saying that it was mine.

b) "Karl, don't touch anything that is not _____," warned his mother.



c) If you find the ring, please return it to Jack. It's _____.

d) Your aunt forgot to take her bag. Is this _____?



e) They can sell the house because it's _____.

f) We paid €15,000 for the car. It is _____ now.



2. Fill in the blanks by using the correct form of verbs given in brackets.

(5 marks)

a) Patrick packed his suitcase last night. (pack)

b) Yesterday I _____ a letter to my friend. (write)

c) Jenny _____ to school every day. (go)

d) They _____ their work two hours ago. (finish)

e) James _____ a great basketball player many years ago. (be)

f) Jenny and Sue are in the library. They _____ a book. (read)

3. Match the suitable adjectives with the nouns.

(5 marks)

a	brave		suitcase	
b	kind		ocean	
c	bright		owl	
d	wise		nurse	
e	heavy	a	soldier	
f	deep		sun	

C. Writing

(25 marks)

1. Imagine you would like to invite your best friend to your birthday party. Complete this invitation card by filling in your party details.

(5 marks)



Party Invitation

To _____

There's a party at _____

Date _____ Time _____

From _____

Hope you can make it!

2. Composition

(20marks)

Write a composition of not less than 120 words on one of the following:

1. I am a cat. My name is ...
2. The haunted house.
3. A rainy day.
4. Write a letter to your friend saying how you intend to spend your Carnival holidays.

