



ST. NICHOLAS COLLEGE  
NAXXAR BOYS' SECONDARY SCHOOL  
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS 2015

TRACK  
2

FORM 3

ENGLISH

TIME: 2 HOURS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Index No: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Marks			
Oral Assessment	Listening Comprehension	Written Paper	Total

**SECTION A: LANGUAGE**

(15 marks)

1. Fill in the blanks with a suitable preposition from the list below. The first one (0) has been done for you. 5 marks [ ]

I went down into the vaults, where the dim light struggled, although to do so was a dread (0) **to** my very soul. Into two of these I went, but saw nothing except fragments (1) of old coffins and piles of dust. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the third, however, I made a discovery. There, in one (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the great boxes, of which there were fifty in all, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a pile of newly dug earth, lay the Count! He was either dead or asleep. I could not say which, for his eyes were open and stony, but without the glassiness of death, and his cheeks had the warmth of life through all their pallor. The lips were as red as ever. But there was no sign of movement, no pulse, no breath, no beating (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the heart.

I bent (6) \_\_\_\_\_ him, and tried to find any sign of life, but (7) \_\_\_\_\_ vain. He could not have lain there long, for the earthy smell would have passed away (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a few hours. (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the side of the box was its cover, pierced with holes here and there. I thought he might have the keys (10) \_\_\_\_\_ him, but when I went to search I saw the dead eyes, and I was frightened. I fled from the place, and leaving the Count's room by the window, crawled again up the castle wall to my room.

*(An excerpt from "Dracula" by Bram Stoker)*

**2. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets. The first one (0) has been done for you. 5 marks [ ]**

On Monday, just as I (0) **was trying** (try) to wind down after a long working day, the telephone (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (ring): “Is that you, Helen?” someone (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) on the phone. “Yes, this (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) me,” I replied. “It’s Sandra, I need to talk to you right now,” she (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (say) in a desperate voice. She was a quiet girl who always tried not to call you when you have just arrived from work. She never (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (want) to disturb her friends, so I knew something serious (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on. “I haven’t heard from you in a week. What have you been doing lately?” I asked Sandra. “To tell you the truth,” she said “I (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a lot of problems with my boyfriend,” she continued. “(8) \_\_\_\_\_ (you/want) to come over and we can talk about it?” I asked. She (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (agree) to meet me so I (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to have a shower and waited for her to come.

**3. Fill in the blanks with a suitable word or phrase from the list below. The first one (0) has been done for you 5 marks [ ]**

secondly	after	leave	thirdly	finally
the whole process	the next stage	next	firstly	in the end

**How pottery is made**

(0) **Start** by preparing the clay to make sure its texture is even and that it’s free from air bubbles. Air trapped in clay expands when heated in the kiln, causing it to explode. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ make the thing you want. There are four basic methods to use. (2) \_\_\_\_\_, pinch pots, made by squeezing clay with your fingers. (3) \_\_\_\_\_, slab pots, made by joining flat sheets of clay. (4) \_\_\_\_\_, coil pots made with sausages of clay, and (5) \_\_\_\_\_, pots made on the wheel (thrown pots). (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the clay to dry for about a day until it becomes leather hard, like firm cheese. At this stage, you can finish fine details or decorate the clay. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a week or so, when the clay is completely dry, you bake, or fire, the pot at about 980°C to make it hard. This is called biscuit firing. It also makes the clay porous for the next stage. (8) \_\_\_\_\_ is to cover the pot with a special kind of powdered glass called glaze. You mix the powder with water and apply it to the pot by dipping, pouring, brushing or spraying.

**SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION**

**(20 marks)**

**Read the text and answer all the questions.**

1. **Mark if the following statements are True (T) or False (F).**

5 marks [ ]

- a. William and Murrion got married
- b. In the first battle that William fought, he didn't manage to kill all the English soldiers
- c. William got the title 'Sir'
- d. William died and did not get executed
- e. The noble Bruce changed sides in one of the battles

<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>

2. Where did the story take place?

1 mark [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is the main character?

1 mark [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What made William seek revenge on the English?

1 mark [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the first city they invaded?

1 mark [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who changed sides and fought with the Englishmen?

1 mark [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What was the last word uttered by William before he died?

1 mark [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What do these words refer to?

7 marks [ ]

a. he (1.5)	
b. they (1.8)	
c. he (1.12)	
d. they (1.14)	
e. they (1.18)	
f. they (1.24)	
g. they (1.30)	

9. Why do you think the story is called "Braveheart"?

2 marks [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION C: LITERATURE**

**(20 marks)**

**PART 1: POETRY – UNPREPARED TEXT**

**10 marks [ ]**

**City Jungle**  
*by Pie Corbett*

Rain splinters town.	1	Newspapers shuffle by, hands in their pockets.	10
Lizard cars cruise by; their radiators grin.		The gutter gargles.	
Thin headlights stare – shop doorways keep their mouths shut.	5	A motorbike snarls; Dustbins flinch.	
At the roadside hunched houses cough.		Streetlights bare their yellow teeth.	15
		The motorway’s cat-black tongue lashes across the glistening back of the tarmac night.	20

1. How is the city described in this poem? 1 mark [ ]
- a. as a jungle full of friendly creatures
  - b. as a silent and scary place
  - c. as a place full of dangerous animals
  - d. as a noisy but inviting place

2. "Lizard cars cruise by;  
Their radiators grin" (l.2-3) is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_. 1 mark [ ]

3. Find and copy two examples of a run-on line. 2 marks [ ]

a. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. "The gutter gargles" (l.11) is an example of \_\_\_\_\_. 1 mark [ ]

5. Explain why you think the poet chose these words. 2 marks [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Find another two examples where the poet has chosen two words that start with the same letter. 2 marks [ ]

a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. "cough" (l.8) and "snarls" (l.12) are used by the poet to express (light, sound, movement). 1 mark [ ]

**PART 2: PROSE – UNPREPARED TEXT** **10 marks [ ]**  
**Read this text and answer all the questions.**

A few miles south of Soledad, the Salinas River drops in close to the hillside bank 1  
and runs deep and green. The water is warm too, for it has slipped twinkling over the  
yellow sands in the sunlight before reaching the narrow pool. On one side of the river  
the golden foothill slopes curve up to the strong and rocky mountains, but on the valley  
side the water is lined with trees—willows fresh and green with every spring, carrying 5  
in their lower leaf junctures the debris of the winter’s flooding; and sycamores with  
mottled\*, white, recumbent limbs and branches that arch over the pool. On the sandy  
bank under the trees the leaves lie deep and so crisp that a lizard makes a great  
skittering if he runs among them. Rabbits come out of the brush to sit on the sand in the  
evening, and the damp flats are covered with the night tracks of racoons, and with the 10  
spread pads of dogs from the ranches, and with the split-wedge tracks of deer that come  
to drink in the dark.

The shade climbed up the hills toward the top. On the sand banks the rabbits sat as  
quietly as little grey, sculptured stones. And then from the direction of the state  
highway came the sound of footsteps on crisp sycamore leaves. The rabbits hurried 15  
noiselessly for cover. A stilted heron laboured up into the air and pounded down the  
river. For a moment the place was lifeless, and then two men emerged from the path  
and came into the opening by the green pool.

\* marked with spots or smears of colour

**Answer these questions about the text.**

1. Find two types of trees that are mentioned in the extract 1 mark [ ]

---

2. Write down one example of **an onomatopoeic word** from paragraph 1? 1 mark [ ]

---

3. “And then from the direction of the state highway came the sound of footsteps on crisp sycamore leaves.” (l.14-15). What is the effect of this sentence in the last paragraph? 2 marks [ ]

---

4. The rabbits are compared to “little grey, sculptured stones” (l.14). Why? 2 marks [ ]

---

---

5. What **figure of speech** is found in the phrases “sands in the sunlight” (l.3) and “deer that come to drink in the dark” (l.11-12)? 1 mark [ ]

---

---

6. “A stilted heron laboured up into the air and pounded down the river.” (l.16-17) What is a heron? 1 mark [ ]

---

7. Give one example of **personification**. 1 mark [ ]

---

8. Give one example of a **simile**. 1 mark [ ]

---

**SECTION D: COMPOSITION**

**(25 marks)**

**Write between 150 and 200 words on ONE of the following:**

1. A day in the life of a bird in the Maltese countryside.
2. Write a short story ending with the following words: “... *it was a joke after all.*”
3. A friend living abroad has enquired about the recent concerts in Malta by famous singers.  
Write a letter to him/her describing some of these events that you had attended to.
4. What makes chatting on the Internet so interesting?

Title No.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

