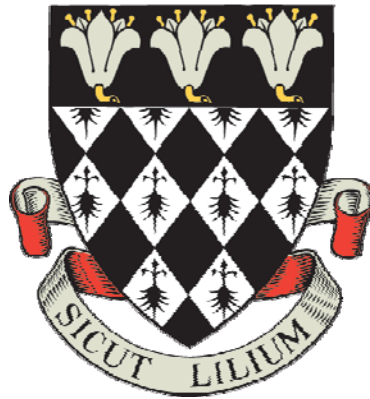


MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL OXFORD



SAMPLE SCHOLARSHIP PAPER

ENGLISH

1½ hours

Answer Section A and Section B on separate sheets of paper.

Write your name at the head of each sheet.

We advise that you read the questions to Section A *before* you read the set passage, and that you spend 10 to 15 minutes reading the passage and thinking about the questions before you start setting out your answers.

Again, for Section B, we advise that you spend 10 minutes choosing and planning your creative writing piece before you start.

Section A

*H. G. Wells wrote exciting tales and parables about this world and others as well as man's relationship to science and knowledge at the end of the nineteenth and the start of the twentieth century. Here is an extract from one of his most terrifying novels, **The Island of Dr Moreau** (1896). The narrator, Prendick, survives a shipwreck in the South Pacific, and, having been cast adrift for many days, finds himself rescued by an odd man called Montgomery and taken to an uncharted island. As he recovers, he tries to make sense of his surroundings and what little he has learned so far about the mysterious and secretive Dr Moreau.*

Text

By some trick of unconscious cerebration, there came **surging** into my head the phrase, 'The Moreau—Hollows' was it? 'The Moreau—' Ah! it sent my memory back ten years. 'The Moreau Horrors'. The phrase **drifted** loose in my mind for a moment, and then I saw it in red lettering on a little buff-coloured pamphlet, to read which made one shiver and creep. Then I remembered distinctly all about it. That long-forgotten pamphlet came back with startling vividness to my mind. I had been a mere lad then, and Moreau was, I suppose, about fifty; a prominent and masterful physiologist,† well-known in scientific circles for his extraordinary imagination and his brutal directness in discussion.

Was this the same Moreau? He had published some very astonishing facts in connection with the transfusion of blood, and in addition was known to be doing valuable work on morbid growths. Then suddenly his career was closed. He had to leave England. A journalist obtained access to his laboratory in the capacity of laboratory-assistant, with the deliberate intention of making sensational exposures; and by the help of a shocking accident—if it was an accident—his gruesome pamphlet became notorious. On the day of its publication a wretched dog, flayed and otherwise mutilated, escaped from Moreau's house.

It was in the silly season, and a prominent editor, a cousin of the temporary laboratory-assistant, appealed to the conscience of the nation. It was not the first time that conscience has turned against the methods of research. The doctor was simply **howled** out of the country. It may be that he deserved to be; but I still think that the **tepid** support of his fellow-investigators and his desertion by the great body of scientific workers was a shameful thing. Yet some of his experiments, by the journalist's account, were wantonly cruel. He might perhaps have purchased his social peace by abandoning his investigations; but he apparently preferred the latter, as most men would who have once fallen under **the overmastering spell of research**. He was unmarried, and had indeed nothing but his own interest to consider...

I felt convinced that this must be the same man. Everything pointed to it. It dawned upon me to what end the puma and the other animals, which had now been brought with other luggage into the enclosure behind the house, were destined; and a curious faint odour, the halitus† of something familiar, an odour that had been in the background of my consciousness hitherto, suddenly came forward into the forefront of my thoughts. It was the antiseptic odour of the dissecting-room. I heard the puma growling through the wall, and one of the dogs yelped as though it had been struck.

Yet surely, and especially to another scientific man, there was nothing so horrible in vivisection as to account for this secrecy; and by some odd leap in my thoughts the pointed ears and luminous eyes of Montgomery's attendant came back again before me

with the sharpest definition. I stared before me out at the green sea, frothing under a freshening breeze, and let these and other strange memories of the last few days chase one another through my mind.

What could it all mean? A locked enclosure on a lonely island, a notorious vivisector, and these crippled and distorted men?

Some word definitions:

Physiology: the scientific study of the body, its systems, organs, and natural functioning

Halitus: vapour (from the Latin, 'halitus', breath)

Questions for Section A

1. What effect does Wells achieve in using the verbs 'surging' and 'drifted' (in bold) in the first paragraph? (2 marks)
2. What image does Wells achieve with the colours he uses in the first paragraph? (2 marks)
3. What tone does the authorial voice adopt in the second paragraph? (2 marks)
4. What kind of character do you think Wells paints Moreau as, from what Prendick can remember of him here? Quote and analyse your chosen textual evidence. (3 marks)
5. What words does Wells use to create an impression of foreboding and mystery in the passage? Quote and explain your choices. (3 marks)
6. Why is 'howled' (in bold) a good choice of verb in the third paragraph? (2 marks)
7. What attitude to science does the authorial voice adopt when it talks of 'the overmastering spell of research' (in bold) in the third paragraph? (2 marks)
8. What does Wells convey to the reader with the repetition of Moreau's name in the passage as a whole? With this in mind, why do the second and the fourth paragraphs begin as they do? (3 marks)
9. What is meant by 'tepid' (in bold) in the third paragraph? (1 mark)
10. Where can you find an example of an exciting use of sensory evocation in the fourth paragraph? Quote and discuss your choice. (2 marks)
11. Where in the passage can you point to sentence length and structure playing a significant part in the author's writing? Quote and analyse your chosen textual evidence. (3 marks)

(25 marks)

Section B

Select one of the following exercises ((a) (b) (c) below) and try to **write in a similar style to Wells**, paying attention to **sentence structure and other linguistic features of the original**.

Remember that we are looking to see ambitious word choice and careful spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as a candidate who understands how to use language and form to engage the reader and generate a sense of menace and crawling tension.

Aim to write about one side of A4.

*

Background

After thinking that Moreau is vivisectioning men (that is, cutting them up while alive) and turning them in to strange 'beast folk', Prendick discovers the horrid truth: Moreau is vivisectioning animals so that they can pass as humans. He thus hopes to ignore God's creation and the natural processes of giving birth and to populate the world with a race of animals who owe their lives to him.

- a) An encounter in the darkness and heat of the jungle between one of the 'beast folk' and the narrator, Prendick.
- b) A description of what Prendick finds when he enters Moreau's usually locked laboratory.
- c) A description of the escape from the laboratory of the growling puma and what Prendick witnesses as he and Moreau and Montgomery try to recapture it.

(25 marks)