



Name:

Date of Birth:

AMERICAN ACADEMY LARNACA

YEAR 1 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

ENGLISH SAMPLE PAPER 3

Instructions:

- Please read this page but do not turn over until your teacher tells you to start.
- Write your details in the spaces above.
- The duration of the test is **1 hour & 30 minutes + 10 minutes reading time.**
- **Section A** is a reading passage with questions. Answer **ALL** the questions. Write in full sentences.
- **Section B** is the essay. Answer **ONE** question only. Write about 250-300 words.
- Write down all your answers on the test paper.
- Check your work carefully.

For marker's
use only

Total Marks	
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Section A: Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

Marlene, the Elephant

The story is set in Germany during World War 2. Mutti, the mother of Lizzie and Karli, works in a zoo where she looks after Marlene, a young elephant whose mother has died.

Since the death of Marlene's mother, Mutti would come home late each evening, spending even longer hours at the zoo, just to be with Marlene, to comfort her. Elephants grieve just like we do - mother had often explained this to us. She told us Marlene needed her to be there with her as much as possible, that she had been off her food and depressed ever since her mother had died.

Mutti had taken Karli and me to the zoo to see Marlene many times. It was true, she did seem sad and dejected. And Mutti was right, she was the sweetest elephant in the world, so gentle. She had kind eyes. Her trunk seemed to have a life of its own, and she rumbled and groaned almost as if she was talking which made my brother, Karli, giggle. And whenever he giggled, that seemed to cheer Marlene up a lot. Karli and that elephant became the best of friends. They were so alike - naughty, inquisitive and funny. Karli would talk to her as he fed her, as he led her by the trunk. Like soul mates they were.

If I am honest, I think I was a little jealous, and maybe this was why I was sick of hearing Mutti going on and on about her elephant. One evening she said, 'Do you hear that Lizzie? It is Marlene, I am sure. She hates to hear the wolves howling. She gets frightened at night.'

'For goodness sake, Mutti!' Even as I was shouting at her I knew I shouldn't be. 'There is a war on or haven't you noticed. Papi is away fighting and in the city there are thousands of people starving in the streets. And all you can talk about is your precious Marlene. She is just an elephant, a stupid elephant!'

Mutti turned on me then. 'And if I talk about the war, will it bring Papi home? Will it? Will the bombing stop? I do not think so. What can I do about it? Why should I talk about it? How can that help? All I can do is look after my children and look after my animals, and I will do both, to my dying breath. To Marlene I talk about you and Karli. To you I talk about Marlene. Is that so terrible?'

I had never seen her like this, and at once I regretted my cruel words. We cried then and clung to one another in the dark of the garden. This was when she told me what was troubling her.

‘For weeks now I have not been sleeping and do you know why this is so?’

‘Why Mutti, why?’ I asked.

Mutti held my hand tightly as she talked to me. ‘The Director of the zoo called all the keepers together to tell us something very serious. He told us the bombers are sure to come and we had to plan for this. We all have basements or shelters to go to...’

‘What will they do with the animals?’ I interrupted. ‘Will they take them somewhere safe?’

‘I’m afraid not,’ Mutti replied. ‘The Director of the zoo told us that the big, dangerous animals have to be destroyed. We have to kill any animal that might be a threat to the people of the city should the city be bombed and the animals escape. We have no choice. We must prepare ourselves.’ By now she was in tears. ‘How can I prepare myself to stand by and watch them shoot Marlene? Tell me that. I cannot bear the thought of it, Lizzie. I just cannot.’

That night Karli and I slept in Mutti’s bed. In the morning Mutti said she had slept better that night than for a very long time. She was happier than I had seen her in ages. That morning she kissed me goodbye to go to work, and then whispered something in my ear as she hugged me.

‘I had an idea, Lizzie, in the night. A wonderful idea, a grand idea! A secret!’

‘What?’ I asked.

But she would not say anymore.

Answer the questions using your own words as far as possible. Write in full sentences.

1. What do you learn about Marlene, the elephant? (11 marks)

2. Explain why Lizzie is jealous of the elephant. (6 marks)

3. Why does Lizzie shout at her mother? (6 marks)

4. a) How does Muttie react when Lizzie says Marlene is 'a stupid elephant'? (4 marks)

b) Explain in your own words why Muttie does not stop talking about Marlene. (5 marks)

5. What is the zoo planning to do to the animals **and why**? (6 marks)

6. What do you learn about the **character** of the mother? Give evidence from the passage to support your answer. (12 marks)

[Total for section A: 50 marks]

Section B: Choose ONE of the following and write about 250-300 words. (50 marks)

Either:

1. Write a story called: ***The Rescue***.

Or:

2. Write a description of a proud grandparent.

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[Total for Section B: 50 marks]