

SECTION INTERNATIONALE BRITANNIQUE
CONCOURS D'ENTREE – RENTREE SEPTEMBRE 2025 – NIVEAUX 2nde et 1^{ère}
Lycée International Victor Hugo
Wednesday 12 March 2025

Please read all the instructions carefully before beginning the test:

- This test lasts for two hours.
- There are two parts to the test, part A and part B. You must answer both parts.
- Please answer each part on a separate answer sheet.
- You are advised to spend one hour on each part.
- You may use the paper provided to make notes and plan your answers.
- No dictionaries or reference books or any electronic device such as a mobile phone/connected watch may be used during the test.
- You must not communicate with anyone during the test.
- If you have any questions during the test, raise your hand.

PART A – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the passage below then answer the questions on the exam paper provided. Your answers must be given in your own words and in complete sentences. You must not lift vocabulary or extracts from the text unless you are using those to justify your answer(s). The number of marks awarded for each question is given in brackets.

Title: The Journey to a Safer Haven

In the shadow of a war-torn city, where the echoes of explosions and the cries of the displaced filled the air, a young girl named Amara dreamed of a better life. Her family, like many others, had been forced to flee their home, leaving behind everything they had ever known. The journey ahead was perilous, but the hope of finding a safer home kept them moving forward.

Amara's family had once lived in a bustling neighbourhood, where the streets were lined with vibrant markets and the laughter of children echoed through the alleys. But the war had turned their world upside down. Their home, once a sanctuary, was now a pile of rubble. The family had no choice but to join the thousands of others seeking refuge in distant lands.

The journey was fraught with danger. They travelled by night, avoiding checkpoints and armed patrols. They crossed rivers on rickety boats, their hearts pounding with fear as the water threatened to swallow them whole. They walked for days through barren landscapes, their feet blistered, and their spirits tested. Yet, Amara's determination never wavered. She clung to the hope that one day, they would find a place where they could rebuild their lives.

Along the way, they encountered others who shared their plight. Some were kind, offering food and shelter when they could. Others were desperate, willing to do anything to survive. Amara learned to trust her instincts, to distinguish between friend and foe. She grew stronger with each passing day, her resilience a testament to the human spirit.

One particularly harrowing night, the family found themselves in a dense forest, the sound of distant gunfire echoing through the trees. Amara's younger brother, Sami, was too weak to continue, and the family had to make a difficult decision: press on or risk staying in the open. Amara, despite her fear, took charge, urging her family to keep moving. Her courage in that moment became a turning point, a reminder that even in the darkest times, hope could prevail.

Finally, after months of hardship, they reached the border of a peaceful country. The sight of green fields and the sound of birdsong filled Amara with a sense of relief she had not felt in years. The family was granted asylum, and for the first time in a long time, they felt safe. They began to rebuild their lives, one step at a time, grateful for the chance to start anew.

But the journey was far from over. Amara knew that the scars of war would never fully heal, and that the memories of what they had lost would always linger. Yet, she also knew that they had found something precious: a chance to live in peace, to dream of a future free from fear. As she looked out at the horizon, Amara vowed to never forget where she came from, but to also embrace the possibilities of her new home.

Questions on the text (Total out of 30)

1. Describe the town where Amara and her family lived before the war. Give at least two details from the text. (2)
2. What happened to Amara's home that forced her family to leave? (1)
3. List three dangers Amara and her family faced during their journey. (3)
4. How did Amara's character change during the journey? Provide two examples from the text. (2)
5. What does the text imply about the moral dilemmas faced by refugees during their journey? Use examples from the text to support your answer. (3)
6. How does Amara's leadership during the harrowing night in the forest reflect her growth as a character? (3)
7. What does the author suggest about the concept of "home" through Amara's experiences? (3)
8. In your opinion, what does the phrase "the scars of war would never fully heal" reveal about the long-term effects of displacement on refugees? (3)
9. How does the author use imagery (e.g., "green fields," "birdsong") to convey Amara's emotional state upon reaching the peaceful country? (2)
10. What can we infer about the resilience of the human spirit from Amara's journey? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer. (2)
11. Translate the following extract taken from the text above into French:

The journey was fraught with danger. They travelled by night, avoiding checkpoints and armed patrols. They crossed rivers on rickety boats, their hearts pounding with fear as the water threatened to swallow them whole. They walked for days through barren landscapes, their feet blistered, and their spirits tested. (6)

PART B – WRITING (1 hour) (40 marks)

Answer **ONE** of the questions below on a separate sheet:

Write at least 400 words on a separate sheet of paper. Please pay careful attention to spelling, punctuation, grammar and clarity of communication. You must organise your thoughts clearly and try to come up with your own conclusion on the chosen question.

1. With the rise of artificial intelligence, many jobs are being automated. Do you think governments should provide a universal basic income to support those who lose their jobs to AI? Discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks of this policy.

Or

2. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. Should governments impose stricter regulations on individuals and businesses to reduce carbon emissions, even if it limits personal freedoms? Discuss the balance between environmental responsibility and individual rights.

Or

3. Social media platforms have been criticised for spreading misinformation. Do you think governments should regulate social media content to prevent the spread of fake news, or would this infringe on freedom of speech? Discuss the ethical implications of such regulations.

Or

4. The use of genetic engineering, such as CRISPR, to modify human DNA raises ethical concerns. Should scientists be allowed to edit genes to prevent diseases, even if it could lead to "designer babies"? Discuss the potential benefits and ethical dilemmas of genetic engineering.