



GCSE

150/01

**ENGLISH
FOUNDATION TIER
PAPER 1**

A.M. TUESDAY, 2 June 2009

2 hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all** questions in Section A and **two** questions in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A – about 55 minutes

Section B

Q. B1 – about 25 minutes

Q. B2 – about 40 minutes

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A (Reading): 40 marks.

Section B (Writing): 40 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

SECTION A: 40 marks

Read carefully the passage below. Then answer **all** the questions which follow it.

This story is told by a young black American girl.

I was glad to hear that Manny had fallen off the roof and that I could come out of hiding now. My mother got the whole story out of my sister, Frankie. "It's bad enough you won't wear skirts and you hang around with boys," she said. "But to want to fight with them too! And you would pick the craziest one at that." Manny was supposed to be crazy. To say you were bad put some
5 people off. But to say you were crazy, well, you were definitely not to be messed with. On the other hand, after what I called *him* and after saying a few choice things about *his mother*, his face did go through some strange expressions. And I did kind of wonder if maybe he was nuts. I didn't wait to find out. I got running. And then he waited for me, outside my house, all day and all night. I shouted to him out of the kitchen window.

10 "You got no sense of humour, that's your trouble," I told him. He looked up, but he didn't say anything. All at once I was real sorry about the whole thing. I should've settled for teasing the little girls in the schoolyard, or waited for Frankie so we could raise some kind of trouble downtown.

I don't know how Manny got on the roof. Maybe some slates lost all their cement and anyway
15 the roof always did kind of slant downward. So Manny fell off the roof, and for the first time in days I dared to go outside again.

After that, Manny stayed indoors for a long time. I almost forgot about him. Then one night I'm walking past the Douglas Street park and there's Manny on the basketball court, perfecting his shots and talking to himself. Being me, I quite naturally walk right up and ask what he's doing
20 playing in the dark. And he looks up and all around like the dark had crept up on him when he wasn't looking. So I knew right away that he'd been out there for a long time.

"There was two seconds to go and we were one point behind," he said, shaking his head and staring at his trainers. "And I was in the clear. It was in the bag. They passed the ball and I slid the ball up nice and easy." And then he shook his head. "I muffed the goddamn shot. Ball bounced off
25 the rim..." He stared at his hands. "The game of the season. Last game." And then he ignored me altogether, though he wasn't really talking to me anyway. He went back to his shots, always from the same spot with his arms crooked in the same way, over and over. I must've gotten hypnotized cause I probably stood there for at least an hour watching like a fool till I couldn't even see the damn ball, much less the basket. But I stood there anyway for no reason I know of. He never
30 missed. But he cursed himself all the time. It was torture.

Then a squad car pulled up and a short cop got out. He looked real hard at me, then at Manny.

"What are you two doing?"

"He's practising shots. I'm watching. Ain't it obvious?" I said with my smart self.

The cop just stood there and finally turned to the other one who was just getting out of the car.

35 "Who unlocked the park gate?" the big one snarled.

"It's always unlocked," I said. Then we three just stood there watching Manny go at it.

"Is that true?" the big guy asked, tilting his hat back with the thumb the way tough guys do in the movies. "Hey you," he said, walking over to Manny. "I'm talking to you." He finally grabbed
40 the ball to get Manny's attention. But that didn't work. Manny just stood there with his arms out waiting for the pass. He wasn't paying no attention to the cop. So, quite naturally, when the cop slapped his head it was a surprise.

"Gimme the ball, man." Manny's face was all tightened up and ready to pop.

"Did you hear what I said, black boy?"

Now, when somebody says that word like that, I gets warm. And crazy or no crazy, Manny
45 became like my brother at that moment and the cop became the enemy.

"You better give him back his ball," I said. "Manny don't take no mess from no cops. He ain't bothering nobody. He's gonna be Mister Basketball when he grows up. Just trying to get a little practice in."

"Look here, sister, we'll run you in too," the short cop said.

50 "I sure can't be your sister seeing as how I'm a black girl and you're a white cop. Boy, I sure will be glad when you run me in so I can tell everybody about that. You're just picking on us because we're black, mister."

The big guy screwed his mouth up and let out one of them hard-day sighs. “The park’s closed, little girl, so why don’t you and your boyfriend go on home.”

55 That really got me. The ‘little girl’ was bad enough but that ‘boyfriend’ was too much. I kept cool, mostly because Manny looked so pitiful waiting there for the ball. But I kept my cool mostly cause there’s no telling how frantic things can get what with a big-mouth like me, a couple of wise-guy cops, and a crazy boy too.

60 “The gates are open,” I said real quiet-like, “and this here’s a free country. So why don’t you give him back his ball?”

The big cop did another one of those sighs, and then he bounced the ball to Manny who went right into his gliding thing clear up to the backboard, damn near like he was some kind of very beautiful bird. And then he swooshed that ball in, even if there was no net, and you couldn’t really hear the swoosh. Something happened to the bones in my chest. It was something.

65 “Crazy kids anyhow,” said the short cop and turned to go. But the big guy watched Manny for a while and I guess something must’ve snapped in his head, cause all of a sudden he was hot for taking Manny to jail or court or somewhere and started yelling at him and everything, which is a bad thing to do to Manny, I can tell you, when obviously he had just done about the most beautiful thing a man can do. No cop could swoosh without a net.

70 “Look out, man,” was all Manny said, but it was the way he pushed the cop that started the real yelling and threats. And then this dude was pulling Manny’s clothes and I thought to myself, Oh God, now Manny gonna get run in or shot by these guys. I could see it all, and I’m practically crying too.

75 I wished Manny had fallen off the damn roof and died right then and there and saved me all this aggravation and him being killed by these bad-guy cops. But it didn’t happen. They just took the ball, and Manny followed them real quiet-like out of the park, then into the squad car with his head dropping. And I went on home cause what the hell am I going to do on a basketball court and it getting to be nearly midnight?

(from ‘The Hammer Boy’ by Toni Cade Bambara)

Read again lines 1-16.

A1. What impressions do you get of the girl who is telling the story? [10]

You must use the text to support your answer.

Read again lines 17-30.

A2. What do you learn about Manny in these lines? What are your feelings about him? [10]

Read again lines 31-60.

A3. How does the writer show that the policemen’s behaviour is unpleasant and threatening? [10]

Track through these lines carefully, looking at what happens and the writer’s choice of words.

Read again lines 61-78.

A4. What happens in these lines? What are your thoughts and feelings as you read these lines? [10]

SECTION B: 40 marks

Answer Question B1 and Question B2.

In this section you will be assessed for your writing skills, including the presentation of your work.

Take special care with handwriting, spelling and punctuation.

A guide to the amount you should write is given for each question.

- B1.** It is the first day of the new school year at a school or college. Describe the scene at the beginning of the day. [20]

You should write about a page in your answer book.

Remember that this is a test of your ability to write descriptively. You should not write a story.

- B2.** Choose **one** of the following titles for your writing. [20]

The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about two pages in your answer book.

Either, (a) A Knock on the Door.

Or, (b) Write about a time when you went on a school trip.

Or, (c) Continue the following:

“There’s no argument about it,” snapped Mum. “We’re going and that’s final.”

Or, (d) Write about a time when you had to stay with a relative.

Or, (e) Write a story which ends with the following:

I hadn’t wanted to go but this had made it all worthwhile.