



Sydenham  
High School

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G D S T  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

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# Sample English Y7 Entrance Paper Reading & Writing

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**Total time allowed: 1 hour 10 minutes**

## Section 1: Reading

*Below is the opening to a story. Read it carefully and answer the questions in the answer booklet.*

Henry Sugar was forty-one years old and unmarried. He was also wealthy. He was wealthy because he had had a rich father who was now dead. He was unmarried because he was too selfish to share any of his money with a wife.

5 He was six feet two inches tall, but he wasn't really as good-looking as he thought he was.

He paid a great deal of attention to his clothes. He went to an expensive tailor for his suits, to a shirtmaker for his shirts, and to a bootmaker for his shoes.

He used a costly aftershave lotion on his face, and he kept his hands soft with a cream that contained turtle oil.

10 His hairdresser trimmed his hair once every ten days, and he always took a manicure at the same time.

His upper front teeth had been capped at incredible expense because the originals had had a rather nasty yellowish tinge. A small mole had been removed from his left cheek by a plastic surgeon.

15 He drove a Ferrari car which must have cost him about the same as a country cottage.

He lived in London in the summer, but as soon as the first frosts appeared in October, he was off to the West Indies or the South of France, where he stayed with friends. All his friends were wealthy from inherited money.

20 Henry had never done a day's work in his life, and his personal motto, which he had invented himself, was this: *It is better to incur a mild rebuke than to perform an onerous task*. His friends thought this was hilarious.

25 Men like Henry Sugar are to be found drifting like seaweed all over the world. They can be seen especially in London, New York, Paris, Nassau, Montego Bay, Cannes and St Tropez. They are not particularly bad men. But they are not good men either. They are of no real importance. They are simply a part of the decoration.

30 All of them, all wealthy people of this type, have one peculiarity in common: they have a terrific urge to make themselves wealthier than they already are. The million is never enough. Not is the two million. Always, they have this insatiable longing to get more money. And that is because they live in constant terror of waking up one morning and finding out there's nothing in the bank.

35 These people all employ the same methods for trying to increase their fortunes. They buy stocks and shares and watch them going up and down. They play roulette and blackjack for high stakes in casinos. They bet on horses. They bet on just about everything. Henry Sugar had once staked a thousand pounds on the result of a tortoise race on Lord Liverpool's tennis lawn. And he had wagered double that sum with a man called Esmond

40 Hanbury on an even sillier bet, which was as follows: they let Henry's dog out into the garden and they watched it through the window. But before the dog was let out, each man had to guess beforehand what would be the first object the dog would lift its leg against. Would it be a wall, a post, a bush or a tree? Esmond chose a wall. Henry, who had been studying his dog's habits for days with a view to making this particular bet, chose a tree, and he won the money.

With ridiculous games such as these did Henry and his friends try to conquer the deadly boredom of being both idle and wealthy.

45 Henry himself, as you may have noticed, was not above cheating a little on these friends of his if he saw the chance. The bet with the dog was definitely not honest. Nor, if you want to know, was the bet on the tortoise race. Henry cheated on that one by secretly forcing a little sleeping-pill powder into the mouth of his opponent's tortoise an hour before the race.

50 And now that you've got a rough idea of the sort of person Henry Sugar was, I can begin my story.

*From 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar' by Roald Dahl*

## **Questions**

- 1) From lines 1-3 write down **two** adjectives used to describe Henry Sugar.  
(1 mark)

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- 2) Re-read lines 6-14. In your own words give three pieces of evidence from the text that shows Henry Sugar cares about his appearance. (2 marks)

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- 3) Henry's motto is '*It is better to incur a mild rebuke than to perform an onerous task.*' In your own words explain what this means (1 mark)

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- 4) "Men like Henry Sugar are to be found drifting like seaweed all over the world."

- a) What is the technique used here to describe men like Henry Sugar? (1 mark)

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- b) What impression does this description give of men like Henry Sugar? (1 mark)

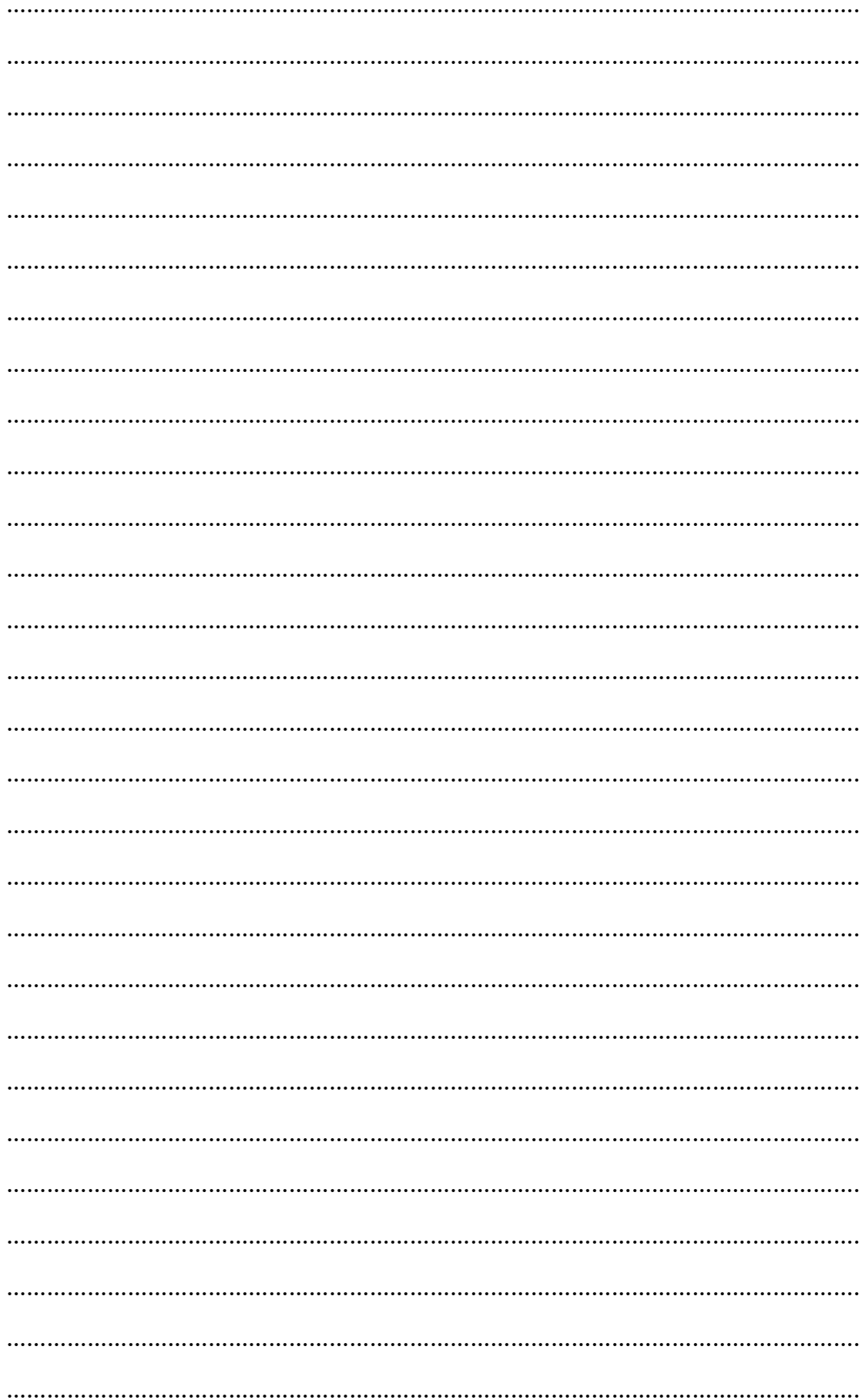
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- 5) Re-read lines 31-41. Explain in your own words how Henry cheats Esmond Hanbury. (3 marks)





## Section 2: Writing

### **Answer ONE of the following questions**

You should write as accurately as possible, taking care with spelling, grammar and punctuation.

#### **Either**

##### **1) '*Cheats never prosper...*'**

Write a creative description of someone who cheats and is dishonest. Think carefully about how you will create your character. You could consider:

- How they cheat
- Why they cheat
- What they look like
- How they speak

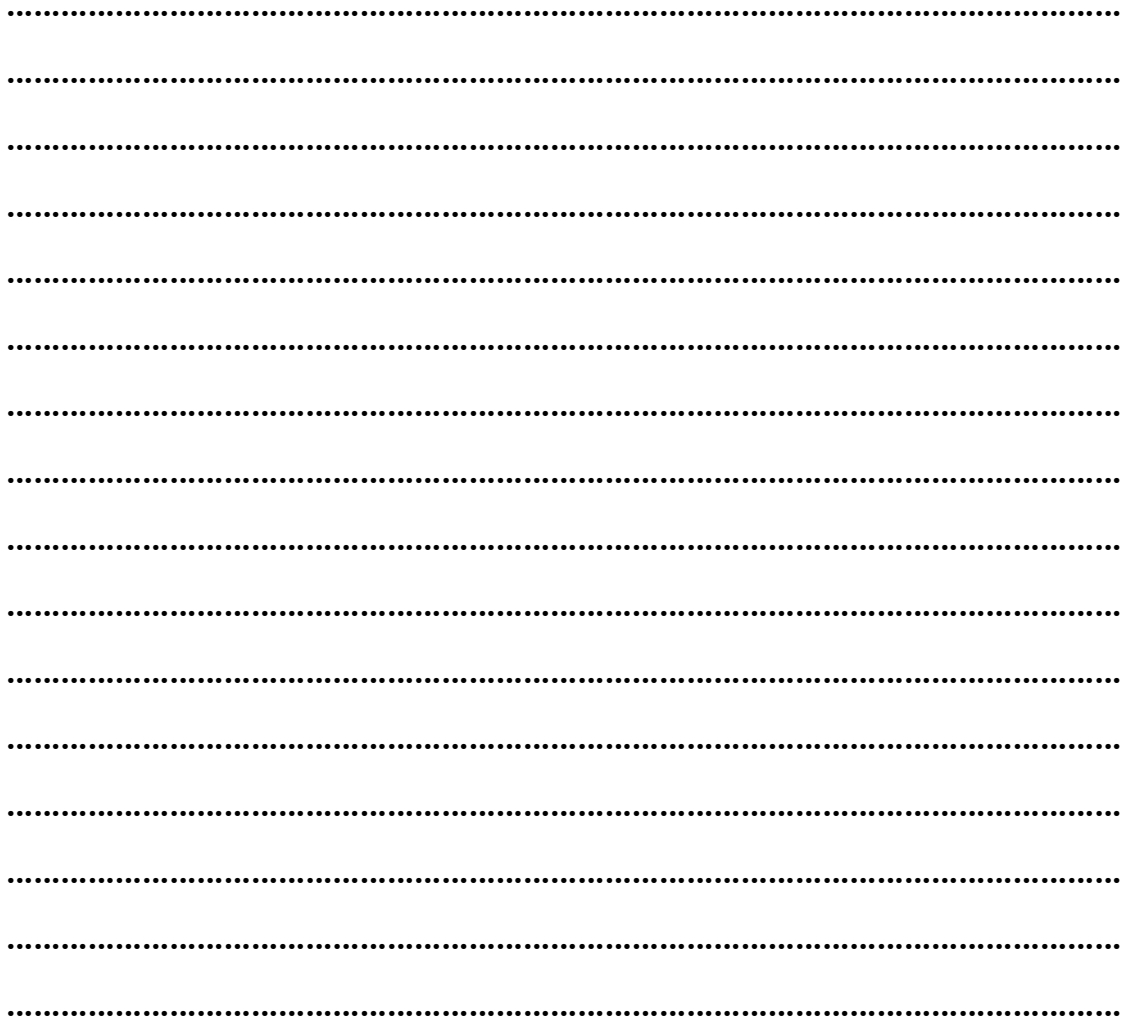
#### **Or**

##### **2) '*There is more to life than money...*'**

Write an article for a school newspaper giving your view on this topic. Think carefully about how you will explain your views. You could consider:

- What is important in a person's life
- The limits of what money can do

You should plan your work in the area below. Remember to proof-read your work.





A series of horizontal dotted lines spanning the width of the page, intended as a guide for handwriting practice.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with ten evenly spaced horizontal dotted lines. The lines are black and extend across the full width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There is no text or other markings on the paper.