



St. Anselm's College
2010 Entrance Examination

English

Time allowed: 45 Minutes

Please print:

Name	Primary School	Date of Birth

- **There are two sections to this examination**
 - **Section A: Comprehension**
 - **Section B: Essay**
- Each section is worth 25 marks.
- Spend about 20 minutes on each section
- Take care with spelling, punctuation and sentence structure.
- Make sure you write enough in your essay to gain a good mark.
- Try to write two sides.

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION [25 MARKS]

As a child, Leslie Thomas lived in South Wales. He sometimes visited North Devon on holiday and had seen the island of Lundy as something ‘distant... wonderful, mysterious’. When he decided to write about British islands, Lundy therefore seemed the obvious place to start.

1) It was Lundy that began it. Lundy, the tubby island, the blue whale of the Bristol Channel.

2) As a schoolboy I had seen it out on the distant water: fat, wonderful, mysterious. I had seen it both from the head of Devon and the foot of Wales. Always it looked blue and I wondered at what point on the voyage out there the blue turned to green. Or perhaps, I thought, it did not change; that when you arrived it really was an island of deep blue. What a thing that would have been! In those days they used to say, on both the top and bottom sides of the Channel, that if you could see Lundy it was going to rain, and if you couldn't see it then it was already raining.

3) It was years before I went to my childhood island. Before I made that little voyage I was to stand on islands in the China Sea, in the Indies, in the Caribbean and many other places. They were hot and tropical with idle beaches and palms. But before I went to Lundy I had never been on a real island. ...

4) The day I first went there it was with *summer at its highest*. For a week, every morning, I had been going with my children down to the beach at Croyde in North Devon and there she was out there in the ocean sunshine, blue and big as ever. I gazed at her as I had done when I was a boy. Then, on the second Monday I could stand it no longer. I abandoned the family, jumped into my car and drove like mad to Ilfracombe where I was the last one that morning to buy a ticket for a day trip to Lundy Island. After I'd asked for my change the lady pulled down the shutter of the little wooden box office *with the finality of a guillotine*. With my ticket in my hand I went up the gangplank of the pleasure steamer and they pulled it in right after me. You can't leave it any later than that.

5) Here I was, on this brilliant morning in my thirty-second year, voyaging to Lundy with three hundred trippers who broiled under the Bristol Channel sun, licked ice cream and drank pop. Children ran about the deck and mothers screamed. Men put handkerchiefs over their heads. The ship's loudspeaker was playing maritime music and right opposite me two young lovers were *going near the bounds of decency*, even midsummer decency, on a life-raft capable (it said) of saving fourteen souls.

6) I cared nothing, I heard nothing, I saw nothing. Nothing, that is, but that blue hump on the top of the sea getting closer, and if anything bluer. I watched it with as much intensity as if I had been alone on the pleasure boat, or for that matter clinging to a lump of cork and on my last castaway gasp. Say it did stay blue! That would be a laugh, not to mention a shock. But no, it couldn't be or the word would have got around.

7) Nevertheless my careful recollection of that morning was that it didn't turn colour until we were less than a mile away, and then it became rock-grey topped with green.

8) It was a marvelous day, hot all the time, with birds flying about and such a limitless sky for them too. At the top of the first cliff path I looked down at my boat, far more elegant from above, placed royally on a sea of August blue with the small tenders making seams in the water as they went back and forth with more passengers.

9) Somehow I lost everyone else. All three hundred of them, or whatever the number was. Some of them, I heard later, never moved from the beach because older or wearier mums and dads couldn't manage the cliff path. Certainly not many went beyond the village and the post office. ... You couldn't blame them because it was very hot.

10) But I went on, across the bounding grass, over the quarter wall, the halfway wall, and the three-quarter wall, to the old middle lighthouse and the newer one at the northern nose of the island. I had the whole place to myself. I could see South Wales and imagine myself back there, looking over here all those years ago. Well, it wasn't blue. That was settled anyway. Any Welsh or Devonian child who thinks Lundy is blue should make a note of this.

11) I saw seals for the first time in my life, far below on the sea-washed rocks, and I had the screams of the seabirds in my ears for a long time; in fact they are still there now. Then I poked about among the coves and caves of the pirates and smugglers who used this as a terminus in the far days. I had a bottle of beer and some sandwiches sitting on a giddy cliff top. I got so sunburned that my face peeled for days.

12) When I went back to the south anchorage the children were crying because they had to leave their sandcastles. Dads were clouting their ears, mothers were collecting bits into baskets and then trying to clamber into the little boats without showing their knickers. The lighthouse men waved, no doubt with relief, and we sailed grandly for Ilfracombe again with me standing at the stern watching the island return to blue in the evening.

SECTION A

COMPREHENSION

After you have read the extract answer the questions below, IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

The figure in brackets shows the number of marks for that question.

1. Explain what made Leslie Thomas so keen to go to Lundy. [2 marks]

2. Re-read paragraph 4. How does the author create a sense of his excitement in this paragraph? [4 marks]

5. Give another word for each of the 5 underlined words. [5 marks]

a) Maritime _____

b) Royally _____

c) Terminus _____

d) Giddy _____

e) Grandly _____

6. Explain what is meant by the following expressions: [6 marks]

a) with summer at its highest (paragraph 4)

b) with the finality of a guillotine (paragraph 4)

c) going near the bounds of decency (paragraph 5)

Please turn over

SECTION B

ESSAY

[25 marks]

Write an essay on
Either:

a) A holiday or a day-out you found memorable.

Or

b) The place I would most like to visit.

- Spend some time planning your story.
- Try to bring out your thoughts and feelings about the experience
- Try to write about **TWO SIDES**, because your story is marked out of 25 and you cannot be given a good mark if you do not write enough.
- Check your work for errors
- Marks will be awarded for:
 - a) Accurate spellings, punctuation and sentence structure
 - b) Clear expression and your attempt to describe your emotions.













