



Bishop Challoner School

English

Sample Questions for Year 10 (14+)

(Current Year 9)

Instructions:

- Write your name clearly on the top of each sheet of paper
- You must start Section B on a new sheet of paper
- Answer ONE question in Section A and ONE question in Section B
- There are 10 marks available for Section A and 25 marks for Section B
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers
- Write in black or blue pen.

Advice:

- You are advised to spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B
- Remember: we are interested in reading imaginative and engaging responses as well as the accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Section A (10 marks)

This is your reading comprehension section.

Read the text and then answer questions 1-4 below

In this extract Jo March attempts to cook for her sisters, friend of the family Miss Crocker and next door neighbour Laurie.

Little Women: Louisa May Alcott

Having rekindled the fire, she thought she would go to market while the water heated. The walk revived her spirits, and flattering herself that she had made good bargains, she trudged home again, after buying a very young lobster, some very old asparagus, and two boxes of acid strawberries. By the time she got cleared up, the dinner arrived and the stove was red-hot. Hannah had left a pan of bread to rise, Meg had worked it up early, set it on the hearth for a second rising, and forgotten it. Meg was entertaining Sallie Gardiner in the parlour, when the door flew open and a floury, crocky*, flushed, and disheveled figure appeared, demanding tartly...

“I say, isn’t bread risen enough when it runs over the pans?”...

...Language cannot describe the anxieties, experiences, and exertions which Jo underwent that morning, and the dinner she served up became a standing joke. Fearing to ask any more advice, she did her best alone, and discovered that something more than energy and good will is necessary to make a cook. She boiled the asparagus for an hour and was grieved to find the heads cooked off and the stalks harder than ever. The bread burned black; for the salad dressing so aggravated her that she could not make it fit to eat. The lobster was a scarlet mystery to her, but she hammered and poked till it was unshelled and its meagre proportions concealed in a grove of lettuce leaves. The potatoes had to be hurried, not to keep the asparagus waiting, and were not done at the last. The blancmange was lumpy, and the strawberries not as ripe as they looked, having been skilfully ‘deaconed’**.

“Well, they can eat beef and bread and butter, if they are hungry, only it’s mortifying to have to spend your whole morning for nothing,” thought Jo, as she rang the bell half an hour later than usual, and stood, hot, tired, and dispirited, surveying the feast spread before Laurie, accustomed to all sorts of elegance, and Miss Crocker, whose tattling tongue would report them far and wide.

Poor Jo would gladly have gone under the table, as one thing after another was tasted and left, while Amy giggled, Meg looked distressed, Miss Crocker pursed her lips***, and Laurie talked and laughed with all his might to give a cheerful tone to the festive scene. Jo’s one strong point was the fruit, for she had sugared it well, and had a pitcher of rich cream to eat with it. Her hot cheeks cooled a trifle, and she drew a long breath as the pretty glass plates went round, and everyone looked graciously at the little rosy islands floating in a sea of cream. Miss Crocker tasted first, made a wry face, and drank some water hastily. Jo, who refused, thinking there might not be enough, for they dwindled sadly after the picking over, glanced at Laurie, but he was eating away manfully, though there was a slight pucker about his mouth and he kept his eye fixed on his plate. Amy, who was fond of delicate fare, took a heaping spoonful, choked, hid her face in her napkin, and left the table precipitately****.

“Oh, what is it?” exclaimed Jo, trembling.

“Salt instead of sugar, and the cream is sour,” replied Meg with a tragic gesture.

Jo uttered a groan and fell back in her chair, remembering that she had given a last hasty powdering to the berries out of one of the two boxes on the kitchen table, and had neglected to put the milk in the refrigerator.

*dirty

** hidden at the bottom so the imperfect fruit cannot be seen

***to pucker the lips to show distaste

**** quickly

Answer ALL 4 questions below:

1. From lines 1–5, identify a phrase which shows that Jo needed cheering up. (1 mark)
2. From lines 7–13, give two ways in which the writer shows that Jo is not a confident cook. You may use your own words or quotations from the text. (2 marks)
3. In lines 26–37, how does the writer use language and structure to show the reactions of those eating the dinner? Support your views with reference to the text. (6 marks)
4. Name ONE thing you like most about this piece of writing. (1 mark)

SECTION B (25 marks)

This section tests your creative skills and accuracy in spelling, grammar and punctuation. We are keen to read engaging responses that show real care when developing **character, place and mood**.

When marking your work, we will be interested to see whether you can:

- Use words (i.e. verbs, adjectives, adverbs) to create mood and atmosphere
- Punctuate and paragraph your writing correctly.
- Vary the length and range of your sentences.

Do NOT try to develop a huge plot in such a short period of time. It is far better to work on the three components bullet-pointed above.

Using the below image as a prompt write about a time when you, or someone you know, tried to learn something new. Your response could be real or imagined.

