



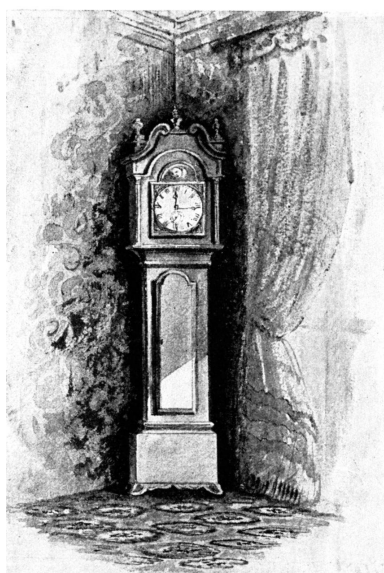
Answer ALL questions.

SECTION A: Reading

You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

The writer has been found guilty in court and describes his last morning at home before going to prison.



Ordinary people hardly ever think about being free. You may wonder what it feels like to leave your home and have to go to prison...

5

In the house where I live, a quiet house in Boston, I am lying awake, unable to sleep. The only light in the room is the glimmer of green from the face of the alarm clock, the only sound is the breathing of my wife, Elaine. Outside, it is cold and dark and completely quiet.

10

Suddenly, from downstairs, I hear the grandfather clock as it strikes the familiar chimes, sad notes that remind me my time has come. From its place in the hall, the grandfather clock has struck the hours of my life, celebrating the joys and marking the sad times.

15

It has rung in happiness through the years as my seven children grew into adults.

Now my old friend, the grandfather clock, strikes the hour I have been dreading.

One...

Two...

Three...

20

Four...

Silence...

It is four o'clock in the morning, the loneliest of hours, the final moments before dawn on the worst day of my life.

25

I climb out of bed. I shower and shave. The house is dark and quiet. Yesterday the whole of my family visited and in spite of what was about to happen to me, we enjoyed the evening, as we always do when we're together – good food, lively music and lots of laughter and love.

30

In the kitchen, I flick the switch and suddenly the room is flooded with harsh light. The only sound is the purring of Shadow, the cat. I fill the kettle with water and heat it. I feed Shadow. I spoon coffee into a cup, then add steaming water. Once again, I have made what may be the worst cup of coffee ever. Tonight, when I fall asleep,



I will not be in my home. Tonight, I'll sleep in another room, in another place, and who knows what the coffee will taste like? Maybe I'll discover that my coffee is the second worst.

35 I have to watch the clock. It's 4.30 a.m., and I check my things one last time. I've been quietly packing for days. I can't take much with me, but there are things I cannot get by without: two pairs of glasses, two pairs of shoes and two tracksuits that were bought for me a few weeks ago by Elaine. She's something special. I think for a moment how lucky I am to have Elaine.

40 As I slice a banana for breakfast, the radio is on, so low as not to disturb anyone. Shortly after five in the morning, I climb the stairs to see Elaine one more time, and to kiss her and tell her that I'll get word to her as soon as I can. As I make my way out of the house, everyone else is still asleep. In our household, we believe that if you don't say goodbye, there is no goodbye.

45 I cannot count the mornings that I have driven away from home. Like most people, I am so busy with the day-to-day details of life that I take things for granted. I do not usually give a thought to what I am leaving – my wife, my sons, my daughters, my home and everything I love most. On this morning, however, in the darkness, as I speed away from my family, my mind is busy and my heart aches to think about what  
50 I am leaving behind. So, I cling to every thought of my family, try to memorise every word that has been said in recent days.

It will be a long time before I see them again, a long time before I come home.

The average person who rarely thinks about freedom may wonder what it feels like to leave home for prison.

55 What I feel this morning, in the darkness, as I drive away from my home and my wife and my children and head to prison, what I feel above everything else is deep sorrow.

Last night, millions of people slept in prisons of all types.

Tonight, there'll be one more. Me.



**You should refer closely to the passage to support your answers.  
You may include brief quotations.**

**1.** In which town or city does the writer live?

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**Q1**

**(Total 1 mark)**

**2.** What **two** sounds does the writer hear as he lies in bed?

1 .....

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2 .....

.....

**Q2**

**(Total 2 marks)**

**3.** Look again at lines 10 to 16.

Give **two** examples of how the sound of the grandfather clock makes the writer think of something positive, and **one** example of how it represents something negative.

Positive example 1: .....

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Positive example 2: .....

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Negative example: .....

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**Q3**

**(Total 3 marks)**



4. Look again at lines 22 to 34.

Give **three** differences that the writer notices between the evening before, and the early morning.

1 .....

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2 .....

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3 .....

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**(Total 3 marks)**

Q4

5. What do we learn about the writer's feelings for his wife and family in this passage?

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**(Total 5 marks)**

Q5





**SECTION B: Reading and Writing**

**You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.**

**Remind yourself of the following passage from the London Examinations Anthology, and then answer questions 7 and 8.**

*I Never Thought I could be this Lucky*

5 Like any bride, Karen Darke was determined she'd have a wedding to remember. She spent months with her fiancé, Suresh Paul, planning their day. They decided to keep it fun – she wore trousers and a camisole top and 400 guests joined them for a barbecue on the beach of a Scottish *loch*<sup>1</sup>. “It was the perfect day,” says Karen, a geologist. “Absolutely brilliant.”

It was especially poignant for Karen, 31, from Aberdeen, Scotland, because for 10 years she'd believed her love life was over. “When I lost the use of my legs, I couldn't imagine ever falling in love and getting married. But then I met Suresh and everything changed,” she says.

10 Karen was a Geology student at Aberdeen University when the accident happened. She was an experienced rock-climber and had gone climbing with three friends when she lost her footing and fell backwards, plunging 30 feet down the rock face. She lay there, barely conscious, while two of them ran to the nearest house – a mile away – to raise the alarm. Karen was then taken by helicopter to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, where she slipped  
15 into a coma. Karen's parents kept a vigil by her bedside and after three days she came round. “I opened my eyes and could see tears of relief on my mum's cheeks. My family gave me the will to fight,” she recalls, “But I couldn't feel my legs. It was terrifying. I knew I was paralysed, but I was sure it was temporary,” she says.

20 Later that day, her doctor dropped a bombshell and told her that she'd broken her neck and back so badly she'd never walk again. “It was too much to take in,” says Karen. “The idea of not being able to use my legs was horrific.” She'd also fractured her skull, broken her arms and punctured her lung. “I was ruined emotionally as well,” she admits.

25 After a month in intensive care, Karen underwent gruelling physiotherapy and learnt how to use a wheelchair. When she left hospital in September 1993 she went back to university, where she had to get used to looking after herself in a specially adapted flat. “Living alone was hard. I'd lost a lot of feeling, so I had to be extra careful doing things like cooking. But my friends were really supportive.”

30 Eighteen months later, Karen moved into an adapted flat with friends and completed her degree. “By then I was having fun again. I was used to being disabled and could cope,” she says. Slowly, Karen regained her love of sport and began taking part in adapted outdoor activities. In 1997 she became the first woman ever to hand-cycle across the Himalayas, and now competes in wheelchair marathons. “Physically, my disability became irrelevant as I pushed myself to the limit,” she says.

<sup>1</sup>Loch: Lake



35 In 1998, Karen started a job as a geologist for Shell and gradually began to rebuild her  
life. But she still found it impossible to have successful relationships. “My self-confidence  
had taken a battering,” she says. “I didn’t want to be a burden to anyone, so I put romance  
to the back of my mind.” But in 2000 Karen met Suresh, now 32, from London, at a  
conference about expeditions for the disabled. They clicked immediately. But Suresh,  
40 who designs equipment for the disabled, had a girlfriend – so they kept in touch as friends,  
meeting up occasionally and chatting on the phone.

“Because Suresh wasn’t available I didn’t let myself think of him romantically,” says  
Karen. But when his relationship ended a year later, Karen was hopeful. When she went  
on holiday, Suresh drove her to the airport. “I just had to say something, so I mumbled  
that I liked him,” says Karen. “Suresh changed the subject. I was sure I had blown it and  
45 was heartbroken.” But a week later, Karen received an e-mail from Suresh saying, “I want  
to be with you. I love you.”

He picked Karen up from the airport and, just five weeks later, he proposed. Suresh  
moved from London to Aberdeen to be with Karen, and their relationship gave her a  
huge confidence boost. “My disability wasn’t an issue for him,” she says. Suresh agrees.  
50 “Karen’s the most beautiful woman in the world, inside and out. I couldn’t be happier.”

They planned their wedding and managed to incorporate Karen’s love of outdoor sports  
into the plans. And earlier this year they both canoed on to the beach for the ceremony.  
Now, having recently returned from their honeymoon, the couple are thinking about  
having children. “Knowing Suresh sees me as I am, not as a woman in a wheelchair, gives  
55 me enormous confidence,” says Karen. “I know we can do anything together.”

Lisa Laws

*Woman* magazine, 2002





**You must answer both questions, 7 and 8.**

7. What do we learn about Karen Darke's character, in this passage?

In your answer you should write about:

- the effects of the accident, and her achievements after it
- her relationships with others
- the way Karen Darke speaks about herself.

You may include **brief** quotations from the passage to support your answer.

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### SECTION C: Writing

**You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.**

9. According to most people, getting the balance right between hard work in school, and having a life outside the classroom, is very important.

Write an article for your school magazine, explaining your views on this topic.

You may choose to write about:

- the pressures on today’s young people
- doing other things, outside the classroom
- your own experiences.

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