

Ritsumeikan Uji Junior High School

Entrance Exam - IPS 3 English

SAMPLE

Instructions

- i) There are **two** sections. The first section will be a reading comprehension section. This section will have three short answer questions based on a text. The text will be at 8th grade reading level and may be fiction or non-fiction.
- ii) Applicants must answer all questions in English and in full sentences on separate answer sheets during the examination.
- iii) There are 36 total points for the examination.
- iv) Applicants will have 55 minutes to complete the examination.

Section 1 – Reading Comprehension and Making Inferences

Read the excerpt below from *See If I Care*. When you have finished reading, you should answer the questions that follow.

As I reflect in my old age on my accomplishments and disappointments, my triumphs and regrets, I wonder if I distort the truth to **ascribe**¹ a certain, shall we say, significance to events. Is it wrong to interpret events symbolically? Perhaps I have read too many books. Perhaps I long to assign order and meaning to what is mere randomness, mere chance.

And yet (call me old-fashioned if you'd like) a life without meaning strikes me as unacceptable, even impossible, because to me it seems the more things change, the more they stay the same. I consider chaos, chance, and randomness nothing more than the newest attempts to explain this inexplicable life.

Of course I am thinking of my career, my meteoric rise to editor-in-chief and my **ruination**², which at the time seemed wholly without cause or explanation. Even then, it is true, I considered Grady Maxwell my story's villain. But I did not hate the man. I almost rather pitied him. No longer. He has grown in my mind over the years, and so too has his importance to my story. Maxwell's very brilliance blinded me to the traps he laid, and I fell into them, helpless.

But I do not like to dwell on evil. I occupy my days with my hobbies. I have a wonderful collection of butterflies, the joy of my life, including the astonishingly rare Greta oto, the glass winged butterfly, which I captured in the marshlands of southern Mexico. I never married, and so I have been spared the **grotesque**³ decay of love. I sit on my back porch as evening arrives, the mockingbirds calling from within the **hawthorns**⁴ I planted with my own hands, the deep blue of the Northern California sky bruising into purple, and when finally it blackens, I finish the last of my lemonade and rise and head upstairs to bed. No husband to nag me. No children to ignore me, condescend to me, and send me to a home. Had I married I would probably still be in Albany, New York, that horrid city, buried under three feet of snow.

In all fairness, I liked it well enough when I ran the newspaper. Albany is no New York City, and not exactly Chicago or Boston or Los Angeles or—well, I could go on. But it is the capital of the most powerful state of the most powerful country in the world, famed for its outsized ambitions and its **cloak and dagger**⁵ politics. And who guards against the corruption and the back-door dealings? The press, of course. The newspaper. And who watches over the paper? The editor-in-chief. That was me.

– Excerpt from *See If I Care*

- 1) **Ascribe (verb)**: to say or think something is caused by another thing
- 2) **Ruination (noun)**: the state of being ruined by someone or something
- 3) **Grotesque (adj)**: especially ugly and deformed
- 4) **Hawthorns (noun)**: a type of plant
- 5) **Cloak and Dagger (adj phrase)**: involving mystery, intrigue, and spies

Reading Comprehension and Inference Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions. Your answers must be written in complete sentences. Reference the text when appropriate. The maximum number of marks awarded is written after each question.

- 1) Where did the speaker live when she was an editor-in-chief? [2 marks]
- 2) How do you know Grady Maxwell did something bad to the speaker of the story? [4 marks]
- 3) How does the speaker feel about marriage and children? How do you know? [6 marks]

Section 2 – Extended Writing

Choose one of the following essay prompts. Write your answer on a separate answer sheet. In response to the question, you should write a well-structured paragraph of at least 200 words. [24 Marks]

Essay Prompts (choose **ONE**):

1. Describe recent news event that was surprising. What was it? Why did it surprise you?
2. What qualities do you think are important in a student?