



**St. Anselm's College**

**English**

**Entrance Examination**

**Sample Paper 2**

This examination lasts **60 minutes**

There are two sections to this examination:

Section A: Reading

Section B: Writing

Spend about 25 minutes writing in each section.

Each section is worth 25 marks

## Section A: Reading

Read the following passage then answer all the questions that follow.

**The extract is from a book about the oceans.**

1) Oceans cover more than two-thirds of our planet's surface. A ship could sail around the world without touching land and, if it sank, would probably plunge more than 3,000 metres before reaching the seabed.

2) These vast, hidden depths are home to millions of different plants and animals. Oceans also support life on dry land. All land plants and animals evolved in ancient seas. Even today, we could not survive without the oceans. They act like huge radiators, spreading the sun's warmth around the globe. These vast reservoirs of water also recycle rain, preventing continents from turning to deserts. They supply us with seafood and their colossal stores of oil, gas and minerals have helped to fuel today's civilization.

3) Sea fish are superbly adapted to life in the oceans. Their gills breathe oxygen dissolved in water. Most swim with powerful sweeps of the tail, steering and braking with fins. Nostrils, eyes, and vibration-sensitive cells on their flanks warn them of prey and predators.

4) Mammals are warm-blooded creatures that cannot breathe under water, yet millions of years ago some took to the sea to find food. Their descendants developed into expert swimmers, with flipper-shaped limbs and thick body fat to protect them against the deadly cold of the water.

5) Seals, sea lions and walruses are graceful swimmers in water but clumsy movers on land. Most come ashore only to breed or rest. Other sea mammals, such as sea cows and whales, cannot leave the sea at all, although their ancestors could. In 1994, scientists discovered the 50 million year old fossil of *Ambulocetus*, a small whale with hind legs.

6) Hundreds of kinds of birds feed or fly at sea. Sanderlings, oystercatchers, herons and other long-legged wading birds patrol the shore itself. Cormorants, pelicans, sea ducks, terns and many gulls find food along inshore waters. Auks, frigate birds, gannets and penguins range through offshore waters, while albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters adventure far out into the open ocean.

7) More than 3,000 metres down, certain sea floor creatures thrive in extremely harsh conditions – soft mud, total darkness and colossal water pressure. Above the seabed, sea-snails and flimsy-bodied fish such as rat-tails swim around in the near-freezing water. Sea spiders and tripod fish rest or move on the muddy seabed.

8) Tethered to the ocean floor, glass sponges, sea squirts, sea anemones, sea lilies and sea pens filter particles of food from the water. Burrowing worms, crustaceans and sea cucumbers guzzle seabed ooze for hidden scraps of food.

9) Most sea creatures depend on plant-like phytoplankton for their food supply, but not much of this can flourish in the dim light below 180 metres. Creatures of the twilight zone (150 – 1,000 metres deep) eat one another, or survive on dead animals and algae that rain down from above. Some swim up to feed at night, camouflaged by darkness. Down here, sharks find prey by scent or vibrations set off by their victims' bodies. Other inhabitants include swarms of squid, shrimps, prawns and billions of deep-sea copepods.

10) Black bodies conceal some fish from their enemies at these levels. Lanternfish and hatchet fish, however, glow with little lights or shine with silvery, reflective sides to confuse their predators.

**Section A: Reading**

*Answer the following questions. Refer to the extract about oceans for your answers. The mark allocated is placed after each question. The mark will guide you by indicating how many points you should make.*

1. Find and quote 2 details from paragraph 1 that indicate the vastness of the oceans.

..... (1)

..... (1)

2. What is the connection between the oceans and the land plants and animals according to paragraph 2? .....

..... (1)

3. List 3 features of sea fish that make them well suited to ocean life.

.....  
.....  
.....(3)

4. How did warm blooded mammals adapt to the sea millions of years ago?

.....  
..... (2)

5. Seals, sea lions and walruses are described in paragraph 5. Find two **antonyms**, words with opposite meanings, that describe their movement?

..... and.....(2)

6. In what year was a whale type fossil found and how old was it? .....

.....(2)

7. a. What physical feature do these birds share: sanderlings, oyster catchers and herons? .....

7. b. Why do you think such birds have developed this physical feature?.....

.....(1)

8. What conditions in the deepest parts of the oceans, according to paragraph 7, make life very difficult? .....

.....(3)

9. Paragraph 7 refers to “tripod fish. Why do you think they have been given this name? .....

10. If phytoplankton cannot grow in the deepest parts of the ocean, how do sea creatures in these areas survive? .....

.....(3)

11. What do the following underlined words from the passage mean?

a) “plunge” (paragraph 1) ..... (1/2)

- b) “reservoirs” (paragraph 2) ..... (1/2)
- c) “tethered” (paragraph 8) .....(1/2)
- d) “camouflaged” (paragraph 9) ..... (1/2)

12. Think about this sentence from the extract: -

“Their descendants developed into expert swimmers, with flipper-shaped limbs and thick body fat to protect them against the deadly cold of the water.”

- a. What type of words are underlined?..... (1)
- b. What type of word is “developed”? ..... (1)

(Total – 25 marks)

## **Section B: Writing**

*Spend 5 – 10 minutes planning your essay. We must see evidence of you planning your paragraphs and organising your ideas into these paragraphs. Then spend about **20 minutes** completing your essay.*

*Think*

- *how to start your story,*
- *how to keep it interesting*
- *how to conclude it.*

*Write about **one** of the following tasks.*

**EITHER:**

You have been taken on a trip in a deep sea submarine with David Attenborough, an expert on wildlife. He wanted to share with you the magic of the deep. Write an account of the adventure describing the amazing variety of creatures you saw and how you felt about the experience.

**OR:**

Imagine you are a wildlife film maker for a nature television programme like “Spring Watch”. You have spent a few days filming on the coast of a Scottish island amongst all the noisy birds and close to animals like otters, seals and walruses. Write your diary entry at the end of a very successful day of filming where you saw the activities of the sea itself and the creatures around it.

(Total – 25 marks)