

EXAMPLE



**CITY OF LONDON
SCHOOL**

10+ English Entrance Exam

Reading & Writing

Instructions

- You have one hour to complete the paper
- You should spend 30 minutes on each section
- Both sections are worth equal marks
- Section A assesses reading and is multiple choice: each question has only one correct answer
- Section B assesses creative writing: read the instructions and then continue the story in the lined space provided

Dolphin Island

At last they reached the edge of the reef and stood looking down into the gently heaving sea. The tide was still going out, and water was pouring off the exposed coral down hundreds of little valleys it had carved in living rock. There were large, deep pools here, open to the sea, and in them swam fish much bigger than any Johnny had seen before.

‘Come along,’ said Mick, adjusting his face mask. With scarcely a ripple, he slipped into the nearest pool, not even looking back to see if Johnny was following him.

Johnny hesitated for a moment, decided that he did not want to appear a coward, and lowered himself gingerly over the brittle coral. As soon as the water rose above his face mask, he forgot all his fears. The submarine world into which he had looked from above was even more beautiful, now that he was actually floating face down on the surface. He seemed like a fish himself, swimming in a giant aquarium, and able to see everything with crystal clarity through the window of his mask.

Very slowly, he followed Mick along the winding walls, between coral cliffs that grew farther and farther apart as they approached the sea. At first the water was only two or three feet deep; then quite abruptly, the bottom fell away almost vertically, and before Johnny realised what had happened, he was in water twenty feet deep. He had swum off the great plateau of the reef, and was heading for the open sea.

For a moment he was really frightened. He stopped swimming and marked time in the water, looking back over his shoulder to check that safety was only a few yards behind him. Then he looked ahead once more – ahead and downwards.

It was impossible to guess how far he could see into the depths – a hundred feet, at least. He was looking down a long steep slope that led into a realm completely different from the brightly lit, colourful pools which he had just left. From a world sparkling with sunlight, he was staring into a blue, mysterious gloom. And far down in that gloom, huge shapes were moving back and forth in a stately dance.

‘What are they?’ he whispered to his companion.

‘Groupers,’ said Mick. ‘Watch.’ Then, to Johnny’s alarm, he slipped beneath the surface and arrowed down into the depths, as swiftly and gracefully as any fish.

He became smaller and smaller as he approached those moving shapes, and they seemed to grow in size by comparison. When he stopped, perhaps fifty feet down, he was floating just above them. He reached out, trying to touch one of the huge fish, but it gave a flick of his tail and eluded him.

Mick seemed in no hurry to return to the surface, but Johnny had taken at least a dozen breaths while he was watching the performance. At last, to the great relief of his audience, Mick began to swim slowly upward, waving goodbye to the groupers as he did so.

‘How big were those fish?’ asked Johnny when Mick had popped out of the water and recovered his breath.

‘Oh, only eighty, a hundred pounds. You should see the really big ones up north. My grandfather hooked an eight hundred-pounder off Cairns.’

'But you don't believe him,' grinned Johnny.

'But I do,' Mick grinned back. '*That* time he had a photograph to show it.'

As they swam back to the edge of the reef, Johnny glanced down once more into the blue depths, with their coral boulders, their overhanging terraces, and the ponderous shapes swimming slowly among them. It was a world as alien as another planet, even though it was here on his own Earth. And it was a world that, because it was so utterly strange, filled him with curiosity and fear.

SECTION A: READING

Instructions

- After reading *Dolphin Island*, complete the multiple choice questions below
- Each question has only one correct answer: write A, B, C or D in the space provided
- You should spend no more than 30 minutes on this section

1. What do you think the word 'heaving' means in the opening line?

- A Shimmering.
- B Throwing.
- C Rising and falling.
- D Weighing a great deal.

Your answer to Question 1: _____

2. How are you made aware that this is a new experience for Johnny but not for Mick?

- A Jonny has never seen fish this big before.
- B Johnny dithers whilst Mick gets straight into the sea.
- C Mick is very confident and has brought a face mask with him.
- D Mick doesn't wait to see if Johnny follows him.

Your answer to Question 2: _____

3. What impression of the water is given by the word 'carved' in the first paragraph?

- A It is strong and powerful.
- B It is gentle.
- C It is angry.
- D It is precise.

Your answer to Question 3: _____

4. Which description from the passage makes the coral seem fragile?

- A Exposed coral.
- B Living rock.
- C Brittle coral.
- D Overhanging terraces.

Your answer to Question 4: _____

5. What sort of movement would you expect to see if someone moves 'gingerly'?

- A Elegantly.
- B Carefully.
- C Imprecisely.
- D Quickly.

Your answer to Question 5: _____

6. Which word could replace submarine in the phrase 'the submarine world'?

- A Strange.
- B Warship.
- C Dangerous.
- D Underwater.

Your answer to Question 6: _____

7. What kind of phrase is 'the window of his mask'?

- A Simile.
- B Personification.
- C Metaphor.
- D Symbol.

Your answer to Question 7: _____

8. What is the main change that occurs in paragraph 4?

- A The winding walls of coral start to move.
- B Johnny swims much more confidently.
- C The boys move from the reef to the ocean.
- D The boys reach the open ocean.

Your answer to Question 8: _____

9. What does the word 'abruptly' in the fourth paragraph mean?

- A Gradually.
- B Suddenly.
- C Alarmingly.
- D Gently.

Your answer to Question 9: _____

10. Why does Johnny lose his fears on entering the open sea?

- A Because he is afraid of being seen as a coward.
- B Because he can swim as well as a fish.
- C Because the coral reef is so beautiful.
- D Because Mick is there as his guide.

Your answer to Question 10: _____

11. What do you understand by the following phrase in the fifth paragraph: 'He stopped swimming and marked time in the water'?

- A** He stopped moving and tried to figure out the time.
- B** He stayed in one place and did not progress further.
- C** He stopped moving and tried to figure out where he was.
- D** He stayed in one place and left a marker in case he got lost.

Your answer to Question 11: _____

12. How is the open ocean different from the coral reef?

- A** It is deeper and darker.
- B** It is more colourful.
- C** There are more fish in the open ocean.
- D** He can see the bottom.

Your answer to Question 12: _____

13. What does the word 'realm' in the sixth paragraph mean?

- A** Kingdom.
- B** Zone.
- C** Section.
- D** Unrealistic.

Your answer to Question 13: _____

14. What technique is the writer using in the following phrase: 'From a world sparkling with sunlight, he was staring into a blue, mysterious gloom'?

- A** Simile.
- B** Stanza.
- C** Flashback.
- D** Contrast.

Your answer to Question 14: _____

15. What impression is created of the fish by the description: 'far down in that gloom, huge shapes were moving back and forth in a stately dance'?

- A** They are petite and graceful.
- B** They are mysterious and terrifying.
- C** They are large and strange but elegant.
- D** They are huge and threatening.

Your answer to Question 15: _____

16. What kind of movement is suggested by the phrase 'arrowed down into the depths'?

- A A stabbing movement.
- B A straight and fast movement.
- C A slow and agile movement.
- D A risky movement.

Your answer to Question 16: _____

17. Why is Johnny alarmed when Mick dives down to the groupers?

- A Because he doesn't want to be left alone.
- B Because the groupers seem so large and threatening.
- C Because Mick is not a strong swimmer.
- D Because the sea has become much gloomier.

Your answer to Question 17: _____

18. How do the Groupers respond to the arrival of Mick?

- A They ignore him.
- B They circle around him.
- C They all swim away.
- D They stay out of his reach.

Your answer to Question 18: _____

19. To whom does the 'audience' refer in the phrase 'to the great relief of his audience, Mick began to swim slowly upward'?

- A The people watching.
- B The coral.
- C The groupers.
- D Johnny.

Your answer to Question 19: _____

20. What can you infer about Mick's grandfather – does he lie about the size of the fish he catches?

- A No.
- B Probably sometimes.
- C Always.
- D The passage doesn't say.

Your answer to Question 20: _____

21. What does the word 'ponderous' mean in this context?

- A Lumbering.
- B Thoughtful.
- C Strange.
- D Obedient.

Your answer to Question 21: _____

22. What type of phrase is 'a world as alien as another planet'?

- A Metaphor.
- B Simile.
- C Personification.
- D Pun.

Your answer to Question 22: _____

23. Which phrase best describes the last paragraph?

- A Johnny is keen to go back into the sea.
- B Johnny would only go back into the sea with Mick.
- C Johnny feels he has to solve the mystery at the bottom of the sea.
- D Johnny feels obliged to go back into the sea to prove himself.

Your answer to Question 23: _____

24. Which is the best description of the relationship between Mick and Johnny?

- A They are friends and equal in experience.
- B Johnny is Mick's younger brother.
- C Mick is frustrated by Johnny's cowardice.
- D Mick's knowledge of the ocean makes him seem superior.

Your answer to Question 24: _____

25. Which is the main purpose of this passage?

- A To describe the sea.
- B To make the groupers seem terrifying.
- C To explore the relationship between the two characters.
- D To show how knowledgeable Mick is.

Your answer to Question 25: _____

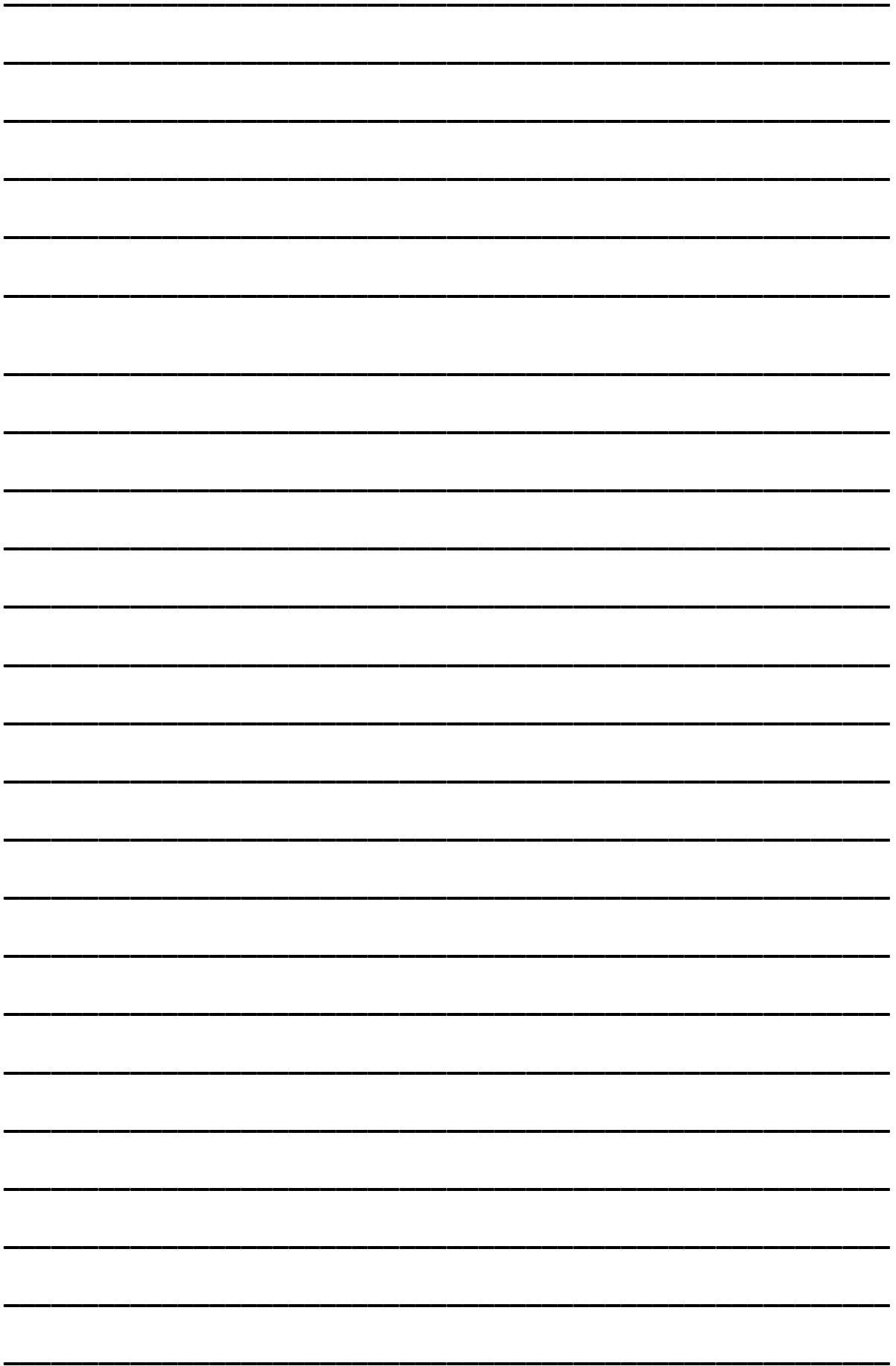
Now turn over for SECTION B.

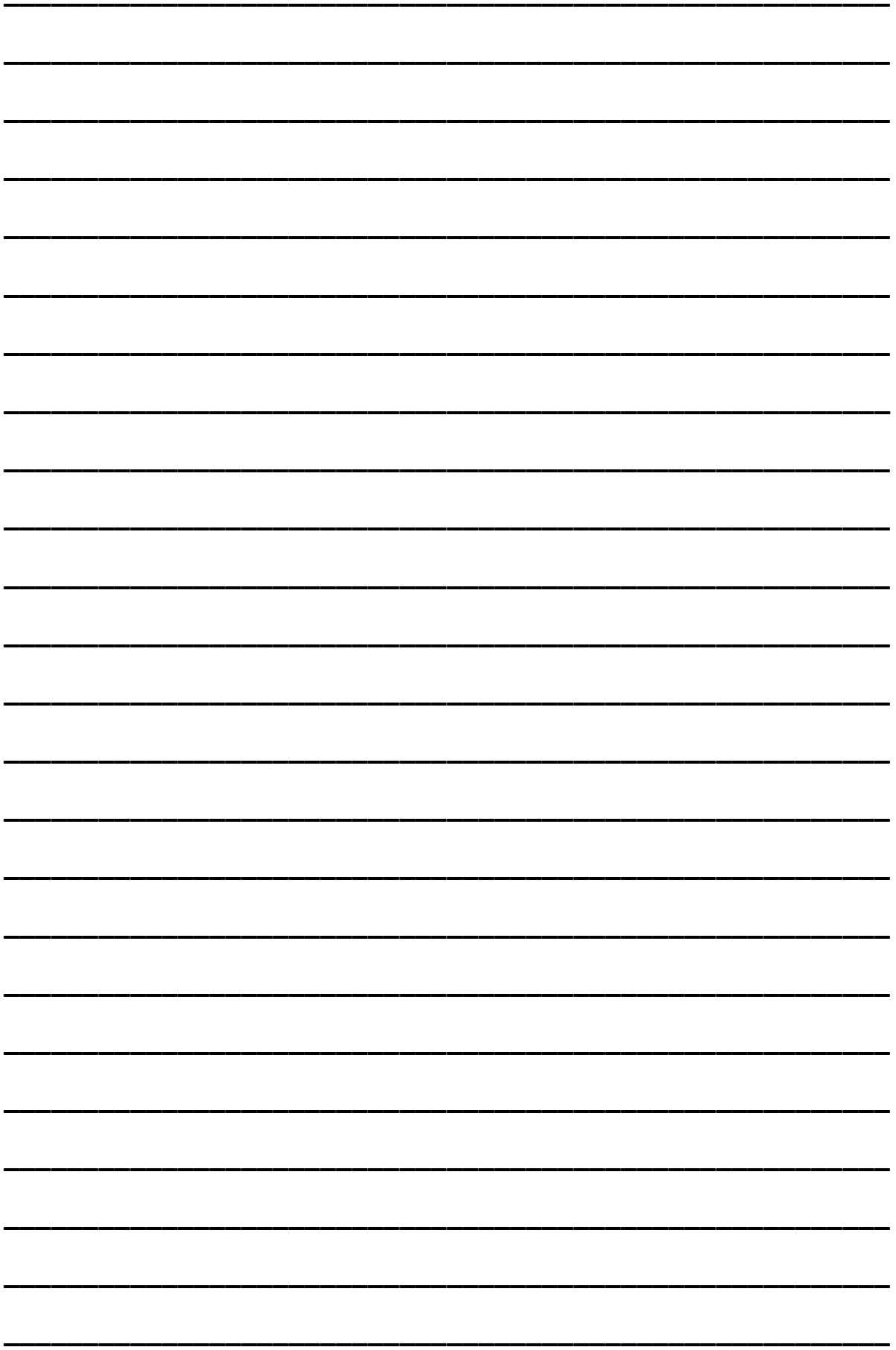
SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING

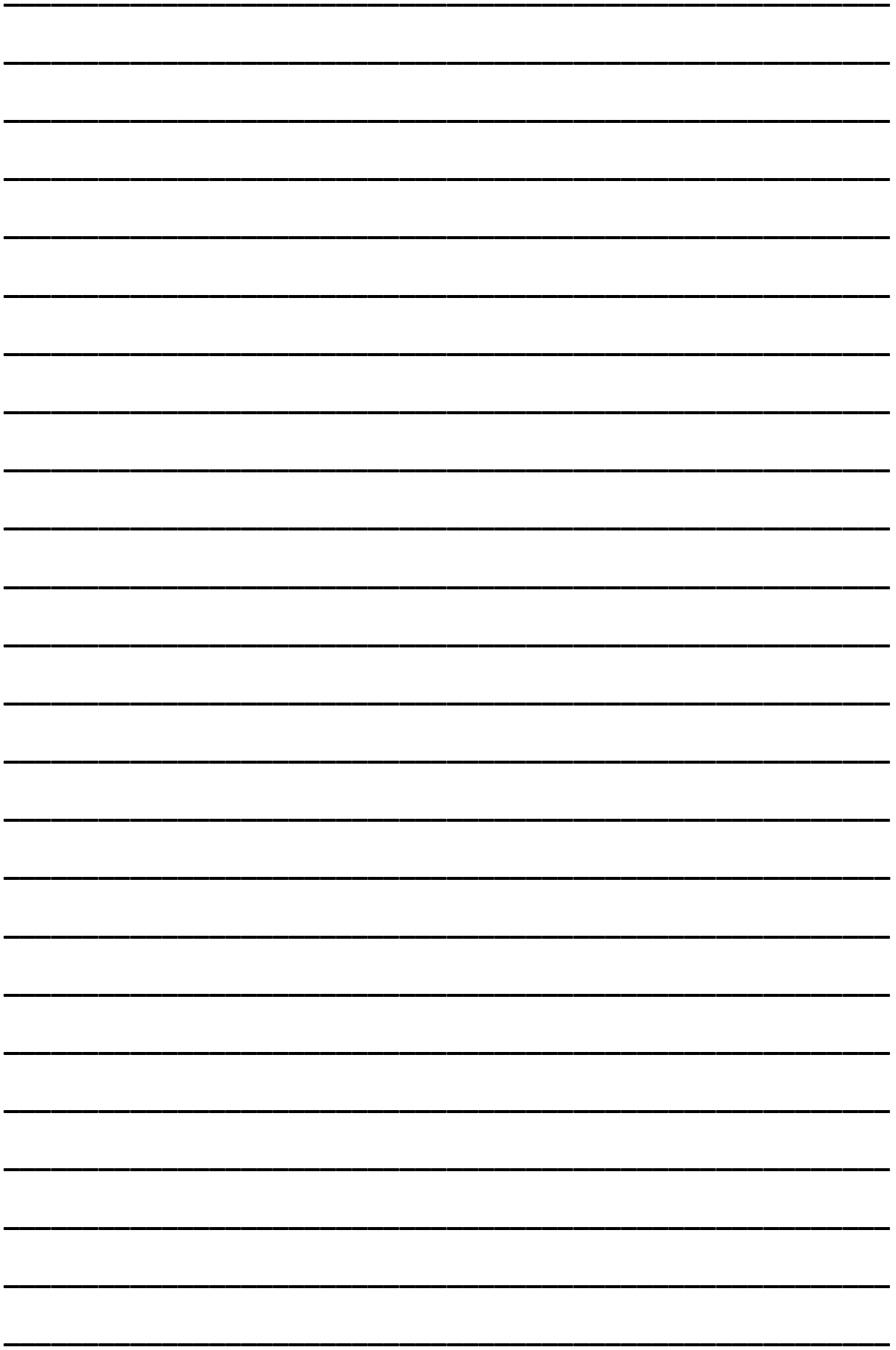
Having read *Dolphin Island*, imagine that Johnny and Mick have decided to return to the reef in order to explore a sunken ship which they have been told about. Continue the story.

Instructions

- You should spend no more than 30 minutes on this section
- You do not have to finish the story
- You are being assessed on your ability to:
 - Write using accurate sentences, including subordination
 - Spell properly, and write with accurate punctuation and grammar
 - Develop a realistic narrative
 - Write engagingly to interest the reader, using metaphor, simile and personification where appropriate
- Spend 5 minutes planning your writing in the box below







ANSWERS TO SECTION A

Question	Answer
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	D
7	C
8	C
9	B
10	C
11	B
12	A
13	A
14	D
15	C
16	B
17	B
18	D
19	D
20	B
21	A
22	B
23	D
24	D
25	C