



ST ALBANS  
SCHOOL

13+ Entrance Examination 2019

**English**

**(90 minutes)**

Surname	First Name

Date of Birth

Score Total

*This examination consists of two sections, each of which carries 25 marks. Divide your time equally between each section.*

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS TO EACH SECTION ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.  
EVERY PIECE YOU USE MUST BE CLEARLY HEADED WITH THE TITLE OF THE  
PAPER AND YOUR FULL NAME

**SECTION A:            READING (*Carbonel, Barbara Sleigh; 1955*)**

*The extract below is taken from a novel. A young girl called Rosemary has just bought a cat from a strange old woman. To her surprise, she has discovered that the cat, Carbonel, has magical powers and the ability to talk. In this extract, Carbonel is telling her that he may not be able to stay with her for very long.*

**Read the passage and answer the questions which follow.**

“Can’t stay?” said Rosemary in dismay. “But why? You’re mine! I bought you with my own money!”

“For which, believe me, I shall be always grateful. But you are only fulfilling the prophecy.”

5            “What prophecy? Oh, do explain!” said Rosie, bouncing with impatience so that the bed creaked. “I don’t know what you are talking about!”

10           “I said you had a lot to learn,” said Carbonel coolly. “Sit still and I will try to explain. In the first place you thought you had bought a common witch’s cat. Mind you, I’m not blaming you. A very natural mistake. You were not to know that I am a Royal Cat.”

“Gracious!” said Rosemary in a voice that squeaked with excitement. “But how did you...?”

15           “Don’t interrupt,” said Carbonel, “I’m telling you. I was stolen from my cradle when I was a mere kitten. There was a prophecy among my people that something like that would happen one day. SHE stole me. Always ambitious, she was, and nothing would satisfy her but a Royal Cat to run her errands and sit on her broom. Oh, she was a proud one in those days. Handsome they say she was once, too, though you wouldn’t think so now.”

“How horrid of her to steal a kitten!” breathed Rosemary indignantly.

20           “Yes,” said the cat, gazing out of the window with his great amber eyes, not as if he was looking at the roofs and chimneys, but as though he was seeing something quite different. “I was so young that my eyes were still blue, and my tail no longer than your little finger. But I knew the Royal Rules. I learnt ‘em as soon as my eyes

25 were open. I can just remember my mother, a beautiful smoke grey Persian she was, saying to me: “My son,” she used to say, “my little son, never forget you are a Prince. Behave like one, even if you do not feel like one or look like one.” I never forgot her words, so I never lost my self-respect. Many’s the time when I’ve been too hungry to sleep I’ve repeated the Rules over and over to myself, till at last I dropped off.”

30 “Poor little kitten!” said Rosemary softly.

35 “But it had its moments,” he went on. “I took to the broomstick business like a duck to water. Oh, those were the days, when you raced together through the tumbling sky, with the Milky Way cracking below, and the wind in your fur strong enough to tear the whiskers off you! Or leaping and plunging through the midnight sky with a host of others, and the earth twirling beneath you no bigger than a bobbin!”

He was standing now with his back arched and bristling, making strange cat noises in his throat. It was growing dusk, and his eyes glowed hotly. Rosemary waited, a little awed, till the noises in his throat subsided, and then she put out a timid hand and stroked the bristling fur.

**Now answer in detail the following questions, writing in full sentences and using quotations as evidence for your views.**

1. Reread lines 1-6. Explain how Rosemary reacts to Carbonel’s news and explain what the writer shows about her personality.  
(5 marks)
2. Reread lines 13-18. What does the writing show about Carbonel’s feelings towards the woman who stole him?  
(5 marks)
3. Re-read lines 20-29. How does the writer present Carbonel’s personality in this extract?  
(5 marks)
4. Reread lines 31-36. How does the writer make this such an exciting and vivid description?  
(5 marks)
5. How does the passage as a whole show the relationship between Rosemary and Carbonel?  
(5 marks)

**SECTION B: WRITING**

BEGIN THIS SECTION ON A FRESH PIECE OF PAPER

**Write an essay suggested by one of the following titles.** *Unless specified, your essay may be descriptive, argumentative, or narrative/creative.*

1. The Prophecy.
2. An Unusual Day.
3. Do we rely too much on computers? Explore the evidence before giving your own conclusion to the **argument**.
4. Imagine you are a cat. **Describe** the world and how you see it.
5. Write a **narrative** that begins with the sentence: 'He had never seen anything so wonderful and mysterious in all his life.'

(25 marks)