

1ALL SAINTS S.S

SENIOR THREE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXERCISE

COMPREHENSION AND RE-WRITES

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

By looking out of the window of the ambulance, I could see we were getting close to the hospital. As we sped by the familiar buildings, the flashing emergency lights turned them into hundreds of freeze frame photographs. The strobe lights turned everything that light fell on the monotonous hue of either red or blue. The sirens only rival was the screaming of my patient, which pierced the air like an explosion in the night. I struggled for balance for a while crouched on the floor as the vehicle made a sharp turn into the parking lot. Finally, the ambulance jerked to a stop. I knew that we had arrived at our destination, the emergency department.

The pain in my hands grew as time went by. The amount of pressure I had had to put on the sub-clavier artery to stop the bleeding was causing my hands to cramp. Suddenly, my mind was diverted from the pain as the rear doors flew open and the cool night air rushed in chilling the sweat on my face. The doctor looked at me. I shook my head. The patient was probably going to die no matter what we did. Most of his life-sustaining blood lay in the parking lot of an east-side bar where he was shot. With the swiftness of a cobra snake, his assailant struck the fatal blow with a sawed-off pistol. Where once was an arm and chest wall, there was then grotesque fragments of human form. As I stood up I felt the warm sensation of liquid running down my pants into my shoe. For the first time I realized that I was covered with warm sticky blood. We wheeled the patient from the ambulance on to the ambulance loading dock. The heat lamps overhead radiated soothing warmth against the cool, humid night air. The callous police officers looked on casually at the action passing before them. They had seen this too many times to be shocked or even curious.

My adrenaline was peaking as we hit the mal-function electric doors with a crash. As the three of us entered the emergency department, we turned sharply into Room Two: the crisis room. The humming white lights were almost blinding after the darkness of the night. As we positioned the patient onto the hard table, I noticed that the once screaming man was now silent and motionless.

A crash shattered the silence as an over-eager intern knocked over a mayo stand scattering the once sterile surgical instruments on to the floor. The charge nurse just rolled her eyes as she bent to begin picking up the instruments. The body was quickly enveloped by a group of surgeons. A sterile and gloved surgeon signaled to me and simultaneously I withdrew my paralysed hand as he re-applied pressure cuffs squeezing electrocardiogram indicators beeping and oxygen outlets hissing. The attending emergency room physician stood with his arms folded watching the orchestration of activity. He gave his nod of approval to the chief surgeon as he walked towards the head of the table.

Questions:

1. Was the patient conscious while still in the ambulance or not? How do you know?(2marks)
2. Why was the author feeling pain in his hands? (2marks)
3. What explains the police reaction?(1mark)
4. What happened to the patient before he was picked up by the ambulance?(1mark)
5. Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the passage.

i) Grotesque

ii) Peaking

iii) Enveloped

iv) Simultaneously

(1mark@)

Re-write the following sentences as instructed without changing the meaning.

1. He took only that equipment which he considered absolutely necessary.(Re-write using: ...such...as...)
2. It seems odd, but one of the slowest boys in the class did best in the examination.(Begin: Odd...)
3. Of the four girls, one is intelligent. (Re-write ending:...intelligence)
4. He was brave yet he could never get out of the hut at night. (Begin: For all...)
5. I'd prefer you not to become a trader.(Use: I'd rather...)
6. They have already thought of that. (Use the passive voice)
7. It is almost unbelievable that he should fail to recognize his own son. (Begin: That...)
8. Somebody must always be on duty in the office. Perhaps the telephone will ring. (Join into one sentence using: ...in case...)
9. If we went on strike, we would undo all the good that has already been done. (Begin: To go...)
10. Mercy passed her exams very well. Mercy's aunt gave her an I-phone. (Re-write beginning: Having)

END