

Annual Examinations for Middle Schools 2022

YEAR 8

ENGLISH
SOURCE BOOKLET

In this booklet, you will find the texts which you need to read to be able to answer the reading comprehension and literature questions in the Main Paper.

SOURCE A

WARM WEATHER ADVICE

Walk your dog when it's cooler; early morning or late evening

Ensure your dog has plenty of water and shade all day

If you can't hold your hand on tarmac for seven seconds, then it's too hot for your dog's paws

FIVE SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE

- Heavy panting
- Excessive drooling
- Vomiting
- Drowsy and uncoordinated
- Collapsing

DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS

NEVER LEAVE YOUR DOG IN A WARM CAR

In just 20 minutes, a dog could die in a hot car.

If you see a dog in distress in a hot car, call 999 immediately.

FIRST AID FOR HEATSTROKE

- Move the dog into shade.
- Pour small amounts of tepid water onto their body (never cold water).
- Help them to drink small amounts of tepid water.
- Once breathing settles, call the nearest vet.

Adapted from: <https://www.facebook.com/DogsTrust/photos/with-warm-weather-forecast-this-week-heres-our-advice-for-keeping-your-dog-safe-/10157359314546880/>

You are going to read about Roy Williams and his job.

Every day I leave home at 8am, along with my two dogs, and pick up another four for a walk. By 9:30am we're at the park for an hour's walk. There's a **gaggle** of people who meet up in the morning and we stand around and drink tea; it's a social gathering of sorts, while the dogs run around. I then drop the dogs home and at 10:45am pick up a second set, which tend to be bigger.

At 12:00pm we head to a different park and this walk is the most energetic, having to march **solidly** for an hour. At 2pm, I pick up the third round of dogs; they tend to be smaller and it's a quieter walk. I do the last round at 4pm and at 6pm I drop the last dog home. Then I shower and put on **entirely** different clothes. It's quite a **structured** day and I like that – it's like having deadlines.

I spent many years working in IT but I packed it in and took a year off. When my money **ran out** I had no choice but look for a job. At that time I enjoyed quite a lot of time in the park with my own dogs and people started to ask me if I would walk their dog. I did it for free at first, until I realised I could make a living out of it. I had 100 flyers printed and put them in vets' clinics and pet shops, but 98 per cent of my clients came by word of mouth.

I love my job. It combines my love of dogs and wanting to spend time walking outdoors. I find it therapeutic. There's a rhythm to walking, which you can lose yourself in. As I walk I daydream and work things through in my head. After so many years having to work according to various people's agendas, I now have time on my own. I wouldn't go back to IT and the office for anything in the world.

The most upsetting thing is when a dog runs out of the park and I have to keep five others safe and secure while I look for it. One dog ran off four miles and was later found at home. Another time a dog threw itself into the canal. A passer-by on the towpath lowered me in the water by holding on to my left arm and belt. During the whole ordeal I pulled a muscle in my back, got a mouthful of dirty water and ripped my shirt on some glass. And in the end, all I got for that was £10!

If you are interested in dog walking, I suggest you choose your area well and keep it as small as possible. Otherwise, you'll end up spending half your day driving around town picking up dogs from different neighbourhoods. Research your market well until you find an area with middle class families who have



children and dogs, and where both parents work. You also need to invest in the right clothing to suit the weather conditions, so paying a little more for good waterproof boots is worthwhile.

- 45 This is a physical job and you must be able to separate aggressive dogs if they fight. It also carries a lot of responsibilities because not only do you look after people's pets, but you also have access to their homes. People think it's easy, but it's not just a walk in the park!

Adapted from <https://www.independent.co.uk>

SOURCE C

Life's a beach by Patricia Polka

At the beach, life's different.
Time doesn't move,
Waves crash the ocean front,
Kissing my feet.
Sea glass glistens in the sun,
The warm air dances around me
Giving a new start to the world.
The sand tingles under my feet
Like being tickled by love.
Laying on the beach shore,
Tanning the day away.
The tans may fade,
But memories
Never do.



poetryinnature.com/poem/lifes-a-beach/

SOURCE D

The beach was deserted now. I glanced at my watch. It was now half past seven, just one more hour till time. The sun sank lower into the sea, dyeing it blood red. The sky was tinted with purple and orange. A few gulls cried mournfully and the wind blew hard. I held on close to my daughter and
5 hugged her even more tightly. My face burned.

"Nai," I said shakily. "Listen to me carefully. In a minute, daddy's boat is going to come in. You will swim out with Cut and Minh."

"We're going to escape?" came Nai's voice excitedly.

"Yes, we're escaping. But I can't swim out. I have to go home to turn on the
10 lights and make the people not suspicious. Then tonight daddy will come in with the boat and I'll be there."

Why do I have to lie to her, even at this moment? I glanced at my watch. 7:45. Then my heart stopped. Voices carried by the wind reached my ears. People appeared from beyond the sand dunes. My heart leapt. Their faces
15 were familiar and most of the voices were laughter of children.
"It's eight o'clock," I whispered.

The figure of a man sitting across the sand must have been looking at his watch too. For at that precise moment, he took out a lighter and struck. The signal was carried out. I strained my eyes and swept my vision backwards
20 and forwards on what I guessed was the horizon. A tiny light appeared, flashing in the darkness. Swiftly, silently, the moment had come.

Adapted from *The Beach* by Anon

