

COMMON EXAMINATION FOR  
ENTRANCE TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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ENGLISH.

[60 minutes.]

[Answer all THREE parts: you are advised not to spend more than 25 minutes on Part I.]

PART I.

The following is a passage from "A Pattern of Islands", by Sir Arthur Grimble. In this book the author describes his experiences in the Colonial Service among the Gilbert and Ellice Islanders in the Western Pacific. The Old Man in line 1 of the passage is his superior officer; "the game" is cricket. Read the passage; then answer the questions that follow it.

- 1 The Old Man was anxious to spread the gospel of the game more widely among the Gilbertese. He told me one Saturday to give the first lesson to twenty-two of the Company's labourers whom the police had inveigled  
5 up to the field. At the end of the practice, which had not proved very enthusiastic, I asked them if they would like another trial some time. "Sir," replied their spokesman with courtesy, "we shall be happy to come if that is your wish."
- 10 I explained that there was no enforcement, but put it to him that the game was a good game; didn't he think so too? "Sir," he said again, "we do not wish to deceive you. It seems to us a very exhausting game. It makes our hearts die inside us."
- 15 I naturally asked why, in that case, he had said they were willing to have another go. He whispered seriously for a while with his companions. "We will come back," he answered at last, "on account of the overtime pay which the Government, being just, will give us for  
20 playing on its ground."

Those early teaching days provided some pretty problems of umpiring. In one case at least, no decision was ever reached. Ari, a little quick man, and Bobo,

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a vast and sluggish giant, were in together when Ari hit  
 25 what he judged to be an easy two. He proceeded to run  
 two, paying, as usual, not the slightest heed to his  
 partner's movements. The gigantic Bobo ran only  
 one, with the result that both players were at Ari's  
 original crease when the ball was thrown in. But it was  
 30 overthrown; seeing which, Ari hurled himself upon  
 Bobo, started his great mass on a second run, and then  
 himself careered away on his third. Bobo finished his  
 second, but by that time Ari was back at his original  
 crease again, having finished his fourth. He started on  
 35 his fifth, but collided with Bobo, who was making heavy  
 work of his third, in mid-pitch. Both collapsed there, . . .  
 and Ari's original wicket was thrown down. Which of  
 the two was out? In point of fact, it was Bobo whom  
 we sent back to the pavilion, but that was not an umpire's  
 40 decision. It was because Ari's head had butted with  
 great force into his diaphragm and left him gasping for  
 medical aid.

1. What part of speech in its context is each of the three words underlined?
2. "The Old Man was anxious to spread the gospel of the game" (line 1). What do you understand to be the meaning of "gospel" in this context?
3. Why had the cricket practice "not proved very enthusiastic" (line 6)?
4. What is "overtime pay" (line 18)?
5. Write two sentences of your own bringing out in your own words the contrast between Ari and Bobo.
6. What is meant by the statement that the decision to send Bobo back to the pavilion was "not an umpire's decision" (lines 39-40)?

[The passage from "A Pattern of Islands" by Sir Arthur Grimble is reproduced by permission of John Murray Ltd., the publishers.]

## PART II.

Suppose you had to explain to intelligent Pacific Islanders who knew nothing about it how the game of cricket is played. Write about ten lines describing as clearly and simply as possible some of its essential features. (You can assume that you have a perfect knowledge of their language, and a ball, bat and stumps available.)

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## PART III.

Write on one of the following:

1. The Gilbertese complained of cricket that " It makes our hearts die inside us ". What sort of things give you this feeling? Describe some of your dislikes as vividly as possible; try to account for them, and suggest improvements.
2. Apart from "A Pattern of Islands ", what is the most interesting travel book you have ever read? Give some account of its contents, and say why especially you found them interesting.
3. Your hobby: why you enjoy it, and how to be good at it.
4. Strange people.

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