

COMMON EXAMINATION FOR
ENTRANCE TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

ENGLISH.

PAPER B.

[60 minutes.]

Attempt all questions.

1. The following is a passage from the poet Byron. He is talking about the statue of a dying gladiator, which he saw in Rome.

I see before me the Gladiator lie :
He leans upon his hand—his manly brow
Consents to death, but conquers agony,
And his droop'd head sinks gradually low—
And through his side the last drops, ebbing slow
From the red gash, fall heavy, one by one,
Like the first of a thunder-shower ; and now
The arena swims around him—he is gone,
Ere ceased the inhuman shout which hail'd the wretch
who won.
He heard it, but he heeded not—his eyes
Were with his heart, and that was far away ;
He recked not of the life he lost nor prize,
But where his rude hut by the Danube lay,
There were his young barbarians all at play,
There was their Dacian mother—he, their sire,
Butcher'd to make a Roman holiday.

When you have read the extract, answer the following questions :—

- (a) What is a gladiator ?
- (b) What does the poet mean when he says that “ his manly brow conquers agony ” ?
- (c) Why did the arena “ swim around him ” ?
- (d) What was the prize that he lost, and why did he not mind losing it ?
- (e) Who were the “ young barbarians ” ?

2. Write **in your own words** a brief summary of this extract.
3. Write about ten lines on **one** of the following topics :—
 - (a) Suppose you had a room entirely your own, how would you arrange and furnish it ?
 - (b) If you had to make arrangements for a school entertainment, what would you do ?
4. What do you understand by the following phrases ?
A wolf in sheep's clothing ; a bull in a china shop ;
to throw up the sponge ; to bury the hatchet ; to skate
on thin ice.

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