



**NORTH LONDON COLLEGIATE  
LOWER SCHOOL**

**7+ EXAMINATION**

**COMPREHENSION AND  
STORY WRITING PAPERS**

SPECIMEN PAPER

## Tom travels on a train

The railway station was very busy and Tom wondered where all the people were going. Most had briefcases, suitcases, rucksacks or carrier bags.

"There's ten minutes to wait," said Tom's mother.

Tom began to feel a little anxious. He was going on the train alone to visit his grandmother and grandfather. He had never travelled on his own before. Tom lived at the top of a block of flats in a large city. His grandparents lived on a farm in the country.

When the train arrived, Tom's mother helped him put his suitcase behind his seat and made sure he had his ticket.

"I'm going to miss you," she said. "Have a lovely time." She gave him an extra big hug.

Tom settled in his seat and looked out of the window as the train started on its journey. He could see the block of flats where he lived. Later, the train passed a factory with tall chimneys belching black smoke and a car park full of cars in neat rows. At last they left the city behind. Now there were fields with cows and sheep and fields covered with crops waiting to be harvested. For a few minutes the train raced a stream but it sped over a bridge and left the steam behind.

Tom felt hungry. He had been too excited to eat breakfast. He opened the lunchbox his mother had packed. It was full of the things she liked best: tuna sandwiches, a packet of crisps, an apple and a carton of orange juice.

When he had finished, he packed everything away and lay back in his seat. Soon he was fast asleep.

He was awakened by someone calling his name. It was the ticket collector.

"Wake up, Tom," he said. "Your mother asked me to look after you and your station is only a few minutes away."

"Thank you," said Tom. "I must have fallen asleep."

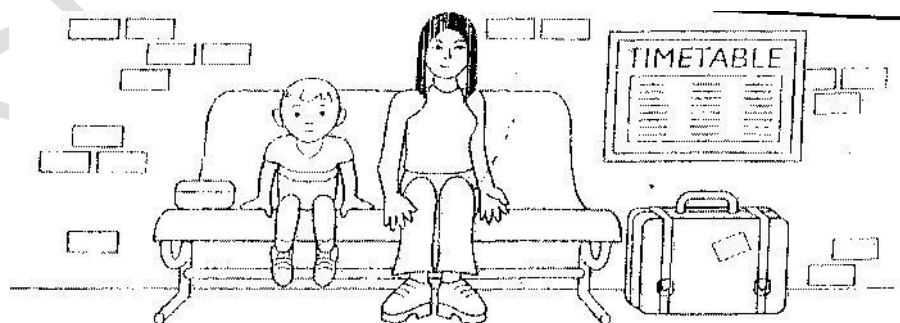
When the train stopped, Tom could see his grandmother and grandfather waiting for him. His grandmother kissed him while his grandfather went to thank the ticket collector for looking after him.

Tom noticed his grandfather was wearing very muddy boots. His mother would not allow him into the flat wearing those, thought Tom.

"Come and meet Max," said Tom's grandfather leading the way to a large Landrover with a trailer at the back.

Max was all sheepdog, from the end of his tail to the tip of his cold, inquisitive nose. As Tom settled into the back seat of the car, Max wagged his tail and snuffled up to his new found friend.

Tom put his arm around the dog. "This is going to be a very happy holiday." He thought.



Time allowed: approximately 45 minutes

1) PUT A CIRCLE AROUND THE ONE CORRECT ANSWER

Tom was on his way to the	<b>Train station</b>	<b>Airport</b>	<b>Bus station</b>
He was going to visit	<b>His friend</b>	<b>His mum</b>	<b>His grandparents</b>
Tom lived in	<b>The country</b>	<b>A block of flats</b>	<b>On a farm</b>
Tom met Max who was	<b>His friend</b>	<b>A dog</b>	<b>A cat</b>

2) PUT A CIRCLE AROUND THE ONE CORRECT ANSWER

How did Tom feel as he set off on his journey?	
<b>Happy</b>	<b>Surprised</b>
<b>Anxious</b>	<b>Sad</b>

3) UNDERLINE THE ONE CORRECT ANSWER

Why did Tom's mother put his suitcase behind his seat and make sure he had his ticket?

**She was going along to help**

**Tom was too lazy to do it**

**Tom had never travelled on a train before**

4) PUT A CIRCLE AROUND THE ONE CORRECT ANSWER

Why hadn't Tom eaten breakfast that morning? Was he
<b>Too excited?</b>
<b>Too nervous?</b>
<b>Feeling sick?</b>

5) UNDERLINE THE ONE CORRECT ANSWER

Grandfather was wearing muddy boots because
<b>It was raining outside</b>
<b>He lives on a farm</b>
<b>He didn't clean them</b>

- 6) Here are some things someone might say about the story. Some are right, some are wrong and for some you can't tell.

**TICK THE CORRECT BOX**

	Right	Wrong	Can't tell
Most of the story takes place on a train			
Grandmother and Grandfather are pleased to see Tom			
Tom makes a friend on the train			
The ticket collector brings Tom lunch			
The train was very busy			

- 7) No one in the story actually says the following things, but they might have. Circle the name of the person who you think might have said each of them.

"I can hardly wait to see the countryside."	Mum	Train conductor	Grandfather	Tom
"Don't forget your suitcase."	Grandfather	Tom	Train conductor	Grandmother
"My, how you have grown!"	Tom	Mother	Train conductor	Grandmother
What a friendly "dog."	Mother	Tom	Grandmother	Grandmother

Answer these questions in full sentences about Tom's journey to meet his grandparents

- 8) What were the people in the train station carrying?

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- 9) Where do you think the people carrying the briefcases were going?

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10) Why does Tom's mother give him an extra big hug?

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11) Why might Tom's mother not allow his grandfather into their flat?

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12) Why does Tom think he is going to have a happy holiday?

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13) To answer this question read this passage first.

"Remember", said Tom's mother. "It's August and it will be hot in the country but there may be a rainy day. Remember too that you are going to be living on a farm. I used to swim in the stream but you must have grandmother or grandfather with you. Also you must remember to take some sun-cream."

Tom looked at the clothes in his wardrobe. He had jeans, T-shirts, school blazer, grey trousers, socks, shoes, trainers, Wellington boots, school tie, swimming-trunks, pullover.

Make a list of the things from Tom's wardrobe that he should have packed in his suitcase. Can you think of **two** more things he might need? Add them to the list.

**Tom's List**

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14) Why did his mother give Tom sun-cream?

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15) Write the word from Column B in the box next to the correct meaning in Column A. The first one has been done for you.

**Column A**  
**Meaning**

**Column B**  
**Word**

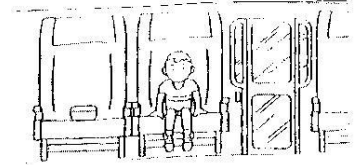
- |   |  |                                       |             |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | a bag carried on your back                       | <input type="text" value="rucksack"/> | belching    |
| 2 | a vehicle that is pulled along by a car or lorry | <input type="text"/>                  | rucksack    |
| 3 | eager to find things out                         | <input type="text"/>                  | carton      |
| 4 | sending out smoke                                | <input type="text"/>                  | trailer     |
| 5 | worried  | <input type="text"/>                  | inquisitive |
| 6 | a lightweight cardboard box                      | <input type="text"/>                  | anxious     |

16) What happens next?

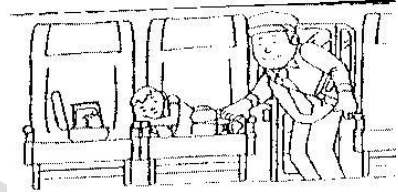
The writing and pictures below tell you again what happens in the story. Number the sentences and pictures in the order in which they happen in the story you have read. The first one and the last one have been done for you.

1

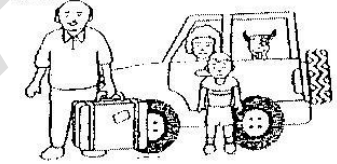
Tom travelled on a train to visit his grandparents. He was nervous because it was the first time he had travelled alone.



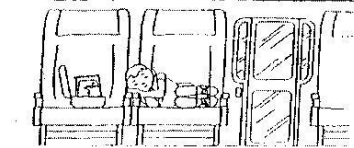
He was awakened by the ticket collector who told him his station was just a few minutes away.



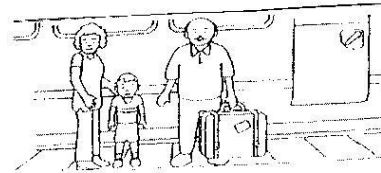
"Meet Max," said Tom's grandfather leading the way to a large Landrover. Max was a sheepdog and as Tom settled into the back seat of the car, the dog wagged his tail and snuffled up to his new friend.



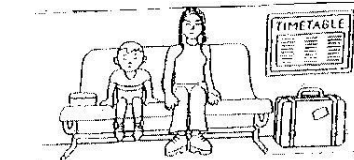
Tom was hungry and opened the lunch box his mother had given him. It was full of the things he liked best. After eating his lunch Tom fell asleep.



When the train stopped, Tom was met by his grandmother and grandfather.

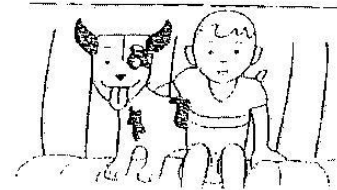


Tom and his mother waited on the platform for his train. When the train arrived, Tom's mother helped him put his suitcase behind his seat.



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Tom put his arm around the dog. "This is going to be a very happy holiday," He thought.



## Story Writing

We ask the girls to write in a variety of styles. Their stories should be well-structured with a beginning, middle and an end. This applies to all styles of writing. The use of language and vocabulary is important. We are looking for interesting vocabulary, not all of which will be spelt accurately. Girls will not be penalised for incorrect spelling.

**Time allowed for the story is 40 minutes.**

**We help the girls by giving them instructions like these:**

- ◆ *In your story we would like you to write TWO diary entries telling us about the first two days of a holiday.*
- ◆ *This can be real or imaginary.*
- ◆ *Don't forget to tell us where you went, whom you were with and what you did.*
- ◆ *What sort of things do people write down in a diary?*
- ◆ *Make good use of your senses*
  - *Sight*
  - *Hearing*
  - *Smell*
  - *Taste*
  - *Touch*





SPECIMEN PAPER