

Ritsumeikan Uji Junior High School

Entrance Exam –

IP Course 1 English

SAMPLE

Question Booklet

Instructions

- i) There are **two** sections. The first section will be a reading comprehension section. This section will have three short answer questions based on a text. The text will be at 6th grade reading level and may be fiction or non-fiction.
- ii) Applicants must answer all questions in English and in full sentences on separate answer sheets during the examination.
- iii) There are 36 total points for the examination.
- iv) Applicants will have 55 minutes to complete the examination.

Section 1 – Reading Comprehension and Making Inferences

Read the passage below from *Fanhood*. When you have finished reading, answer the questions that follow.

Sam Martinez *knew* baseball. He couldn't count the number of Los Angeles Dodgers games he had been to: his Uncle Gabriel had season tickets and had been taking Sam to games ever since he was three years old. When spring turned into baseball season, he got so excited that his parents practically had to bolt him to his desk after school so that he would do his homework before the night games. His little sisters knew that if they bothered him when he was either watching or listening to the game, they would get yelled at. Even Sam's friends tended to steer clear and tread softly when baseball season began.

Sam couldn't help it: he was obsessed. The smell of freshly cut grass, the feel of the hard and perfectly aerodynamic ball, the ping of the bat as it made contact, the crunch of peanut shells as you made your way down the aisles to the seats, the groans and shouts of the crowd—what could be better than all of this?

Sam had turned his bedroom into a Dodgers shrine, complete with pennants, framed newspaper articles, glass-encased fly balls, and a few autographed headshots. He didn't like other people to come into his room, though—sometimes he was worried it was a bit too much. He had once made the mistake of bringing a friend to a Dodgers game when Uncle Gabriel couldn't go, and it had been a disaster. Jordan had wanted to talk the entire time and barely paid attention to the game. He had then gotten annoyed at Sam for *not* wanting to talk: it was awful. Sam had felt too embarrassed to take notes and jot down the stats for the game, which had really messed up the seasonal scorecard he and Uncle Gabriel usually kept.

The first game of this year's season found the Dodgers pitted against the Chicago Cubs, those eternal **underdogs**¹. Sam and Uncle Gabriel handed their tickets to the collector and made their way to the section they had sat in for the last ten years.

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They finally reached their section and headed to their seats. Uncle Gabriel took small steps down the row, shouting out greetings as they passed by old friends and fellow season-ticket holders. These guys had been sitting in the same row and section for years together and shared Sam and Uncle Gabriel's passion for the game.

– Excerpt from *Fanhood*

1) **underdog** (*noun*): a player or team that has little chance of winning

Reading Comprehension and Inference Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions. Your answers must be written in complete sentences. Reference the text when appropriate. The maximum number of marks awarded is written after each question.

- 1) How old is Sam? [2 marks]
 - 2) Why didn't Sam like bringing friends with him to a baseball game? [4 marks]
 - 3) The opening line of the story says, "Sam Martinez *knew* baseball." What does the narrator mean? [6 marks]
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Section 2 – Extended Writing

Choose one of the following essay prompts. Write your answer on a separate answer sheet. In response to the question, you should write a well-structured paragraph of at least 150 words. [24 Marks]

Essay Prompts (choose **ONE**):

1. Write about a time you encountered someone who was difficult to talk to. What did you do?
2. Why do you think it is important to be a balanced student?