

Ritsumeikan Uji Junior High School

Entrance Exam – IPS 2 English

SAMPLE

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 7th 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 *The Tree House*. When you have finished reading, answer the questions that follow.

Billy gripped tightly as he reached for the next wood plank. Each step was nailed into the large oak tree about one foot above the last. But, near the top, they thinned out with gaps left where some of the old, rotting pieces had fallen off.

Billy struggled to the top and pulled himself into the tree house, bringing down a wall of spider webs with his face as he entered. Swatting and spitting the webs away, he glanced around. He had psyched himself up for something big and felt simultaneously relieved and disappointed to find a boring, empty room. No pile of gold, no skeletons, no lavish bed.

He sat down and let his legs swing outside the open doorway, sending tingles of fear up his body like the top of a rollercoaster hill. He spotted Gramps' house through the trees. Every time Billy visited his grandfather, he would go exploring the first chance he had. Gramps lived only a few hours' drive from New York City, but his mossy surroundings felt a world away from Billy's apartment.

It was getting dark earlier, and Billy was surprised to see the sun already starting to set. His stomach grumbled for dinner, confirming that he'd lost track of time. A faded oriental rug sat at the center of the room. The floorboards creaked as Billy stepped to the rug, touching its intricate pattern. It was oddly warm for a rug up in a chilly tree house.

He started to walk across the rug, but suddenly his knees went weak, his stomach flew to the sky, and his scream got lost in his throat. By the time he understood he was falling, that the surrounding blackness wasn't the nighttime air, but the inside of a hollow tree, he had landed.

How Billy didn't break his arms, legs, and neck was a mystery to him, but it felt more like he'd landed on a cloud covered in tufts of grass than on a hard forest floor. His eyes adjusted to the dark, and he slowly rose. As he reached out to touch the bark in front of him, it disappeared.

He was back in the forest, but now it was bathed in a golden light, and the autumn foliage was once again green. Something scurried past, brushing up against Billy's foot. Billy gasped, and the critter stopped. *A chipmunk!* he thought. *Just a normal, adorable chipmunk.* Maybe he'd fallen asleep outside, and the whole tree house thing had just been a strange dream...

Billy's new friend joined a group of chipmunks up on a branch. Something poked his hip.

"An elf!" Billy exclaimed, looking wide-eyed at the bearded figure below.

– Excerpt from *The Tree House*

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) Why does Billy feel “simultaneously relieved and disappointed” to find a boring empty room? [2 marks]
- 2) How does the reader know the tree house is old? [4 marks]
- 3) The narrator of the story describes the grandfather’s house as feeling “a world away from Billy’s apartment.” In what ways is this true? [6 marks]

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 175 words. [24 Marks]

Essay Prompts (choose **ONE**):

1. Describe your first day at a new school. How did you feel? Why did you feel that way?
2. What qualities do you think are important in a student?