

DEPARTMENT FOR CURRICULUM,
LIFELONG LEARNING AND EMPLOYABILITY
Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes
Educational Assessment Unit

Annual Examinations for Primary Schools 2024
SPECIMEN PAPER

Year 6

ENGLISH

Time: 45 min

Reading Extracts Booklet

Name: _____

Class: _____

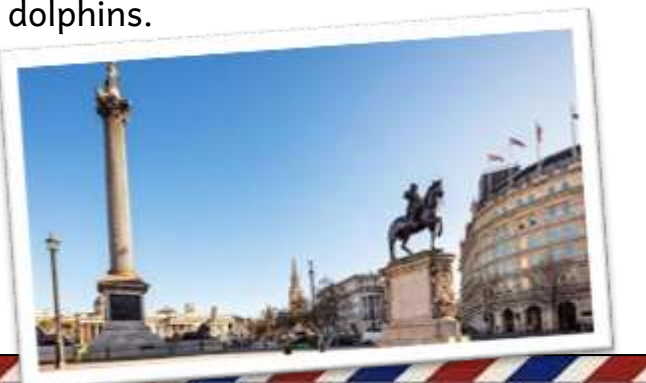
Read the following text and answer all the questions in the Answers Booklet.

LONDON LANDMARKS

London's landmarks are some of the most well-known in the world. Here are a few of them.



Located in the heart of London, **Trafalgar Square**, is a popular tourist attraction. This large pedestrian square, which was first opened for the public in 1844, is named after the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar. The square is dominated by Nelson's Column, a 56-metre-high monument to Admiral Lord Nelson, who died during this battle. At the bottom of the column, there are four bronze lion statues. The column is surrounded by two fountains embellished with elaborate sculptures of mermaids, tritons and dolphins.



The Tower of London

stands on the north bank of the River Thames. It was built by William the Conqueror in 1078. The Tower has had a very interesting past: it was initially a fortress, and later served as a palace, a prison and until the year 1835, even a zoo! The Tower of London is now home to over 23,500 priceless gemstones, also known as the Crown Jewels.



Stretching over the river Thames, is **Tower Bridge**, one of the most impressive bridges in London. It was built between 1886 and 1894 and is about 240 metres in length. The middle section of the bridge can be raised to allow river traffic to pass through. On average, Tower Bridge is raised twice a day. The bridge gets its name from the Tower of London, situated nearby.



Read the following text and answer all the questions in the Answers Booklet.

The Winged Horse

Section 1

A lone seagull was flying over the barren country of Kisthene, swooping, soaring, a bright white streak in the gathering dusk. All at once, there was a movement below. Medusa the Gorgon, darted out of hiding, and her stony glance pierced the seagull like an arrow, and turned it into solid rock. The bird fell headlong out of the sky. Medusa and her sister Gorgons, ran capering over the rocks, snarling and clawing as they fought over the dead bird. Stone prey: their joy and their delight since time began. **(paragraph 1)**

A thousand miles away, Perseus sat talking with three gods: Hades, Hermes and Athene. “Perseus,” said Athene, “you must kill Medusa, and bring back her sliced-off head. Borrow Hermes’ winged sandals, to carry you to her lair. Take Hades’ helmet of invisibility to help you creep up on her unseen. And take my mirror-shield to save you from her stony glance.” **(paragraph 2)**

The gods vanished, and Perseus buckled on his sword, put Hades’ helmet on his head and Hermes’ sandals on his feet. Then he took Athene’s glittering shield and flew, wind-fast, to Kisthene and the Gorgons’ lair. **(paragraph 3)**



Outside, near the entrance to the cave were statues of men, their stone faces set in expression of terror. Walking backwards, Perseus entered the cave, guided by his polished shield which, shining like a mirror, reflected the shapes of the Gorgons snuffling and snorting inside the cave, fast asleep. Two of them were ugly things, with curved claws and huge yellow fangs and wings decorated with golden scales. They were immortals, and Perseus could have done nothing to them. But the third sister, Medusa was mortal and beautiful, though a bit pale, and it would have been hard to find her in the darkness - except for the whispering sounds of the grey writhing snakes that grew instead of her hair. **(paragraph 4)**

Section 2

Perseus backed silently into the cave. Medusa’s snake-hair bristled at the whirr of Perseus’ winged sandals, but he was invisible: unaware of the danger, Medusa and her sisters slept on. Still holding up Athene’s mirror-shield to guide his movements behind his back, Perseus lifted his sword and with one sweeping blow sliced off Medusa’s head. It fell on the floor and the deadly eyes flickered open. If Perseus had been looking straight at them, he would have been turned to stone. **(paragraph 5)**

He stuffed the head into a leather bag, drawing the latches tight. Then he jumped back in amazement. From Medusa’s neck a beautiful, winged horse, Pegasus, was appearing and growing before his eyes. Pegasus stretched his wings, whinnied and pawed the ground. Then, to Perseus’ surprise, he spoke human words. “Quick, Perseus! Jump on my back. Hurry!” **(paragraph 6)**

Perseus scrambled onto Pegasus’ back, and Pegasus reared and beat his wings for take-off. The other two sisters woke up and ran raving and screaming after him, their golden wings clattering, bronze claws slashing. They took to the air on heavy wings in groping pursuit, but it was all in vain, for he was nowhere to be found. **(paragraph 7)**

Pegasus carried Perseus safely home and set him down in a grassy field. Then he soared away to his master Zeus, high in Olympus. Perseus watched him climbing higher and higher, like a dazzling constellation in the sky. **(paragraph 8)**

