This is a Class 1 exam

Lebanon Evangelical School for Boys and Girls

Lebanon Evangelical School

for Boys and Girls Loueizeh - Baabda

Stage Exam 04

20-25JUN2025

Do NOT write in this box. Your MARK will be placed here.

Subject :	English
Class :	10B and 10C
Teacher :	Mrs. Narin Zakarian
Duration :	1 hour

Answer on the question sheet.

You are to answer the questions to this exam on : This exam paper

Your name :		*Time taken to complete exam*
Your Class :		
Exam Room :		
How many sheets, including cover sheet :		

- Do not open this paper until the teacher in charge instructs you to do so.
- The most important thing to remember in taking an exam is NEVER PANIC.
- If you are caught cheating in this exam, you will be awarded zero for ALL exams that are taken on this day.

The Open Window

by H. H. Munro (Saki)

"My aunt will be down presently, Mr. Nuttel," said a very self-possessed young lady of fifteen; "in the meantime you must try and put up with me."

Framton Nuttel endeavoured to say the correct something which should duly flatter the niece of the moment without unduly discounting the aunt that was to come. Privately he doubted more than ever whether these formal visits on a succession of total strangers would do much towards helping the nerve cure which he was supposed to be undergoing.

"I know how it will be," his sister had said when he was preparing to migrate to this rural retreat; "you will bury yourself down there and not speak to a living soul, and your nerves will be worse than ever from moping. I shall just give you letters of introduction to all the people I know there.

Some of them, as far as I can remember, were quite nice."

Framton wondered whether Mrs. Sappleton, the lady to whom he was presenting one of the letters of introduction, came into the nice division.

"Do you know many of the people round here?" asked the niece, when she judged that they had had sufficient silent communion.

"Hardly a soul," said Framton. "My sister was staying here, at the rectory, you know, some four years ago, and she gave me letters of introduction to some of the people here."

He made the last statement in a tone of distinct regret.

"Then you know practically nothing about my aunt?" pursued the self-possessed young lady.

"Only her name and address," admitted the caller. He was wondering whether Mrs. Sappleton was in the married or widowed state. An undefinable something about the room seemed to suggest masculine habitation.

"Her great tragedy happened just three years ago," said the child; "that would be since your sister's time."

"Her tragedy?" asked Framton; somehow in this restful country spot tragedies seemed out of place.

"You may wonder why we keep that window wide open on an October afternoon," said the niece, indicating a large French window that opened on to a lawn.

"It is quite warm for the time of the year," said Framton; "but has that window got anything to do with the tragedy?"

"Out through that window, three years ago to a day, her husband and her two young brothers went off for their day's shooting. They never came back. In crossing the moor to their favourite snipe-shooting ground they were all three engulfed in a treacherous piece of bog. It had been that dreadful wet summer, you know, and places that were safe in other years gave way suddenly without warning. Their bodies were never recovered. That was the dreadful part of it." Here the child's voice lost its self-possessed note and became falteringly human. "Poor aunt always thinks that they will come back some day, they and the little brown spaniel that was lost with them, and walk in at that window just as they used to do. That is why the window is kept open every evening till it is quite dusk. Poor dear aunt, she has often told me how they went out, her husband with his white waterproof coat over his arm, and Ronnie, her youngest brother, singing 'Bertie, why do you bound?' as he always did to tease her, because she said it got on her nerves. Do you know, sometimes on still, quiet evenings like this, I almost get a creepy feeling that they will all walk in through that window - "

She broke off with a little shudder. It was a relief to Framton when the aunt bustled into the room with a whirl of apologies for being late in making her appearance.

"I hope Vera has been amusing you?" she said.

"She has been very interesting," said Framton.

"I hope you don't mind the open window," said Mrs. Sappleton briskly; "my husband and brothers will be home directly from shooting, and they always come in this way. They've been out for snipe in the marshes to-day, so they'll make a fine mess over my poor carpets. So like you men-folk, isn't it?"

She rattled on cheerfully about the shooting and the scarcity of birds, and the prospects for duck in the winter. To Framton it was all purely horrible. He made a desperate but only partially successful effort to turn the talk on to a less ghastly topic; he was conscious that his hostess was giving him only a fragment of her attention, and her eyes were constantly straying past him to the open window and the lawn beyond. It was certainly an unfortunate coincidence that he should have paid his visit on this tragic anniversary.

"The doctors agree in ordering me complete rest, an absence of mental excitement, and avoidance of anything in the nature of violent physical exercise," announced Framton, who laboured under the tolerably wide-spread delusion that total strangers and chance acquaintances are hungry for the least detail of one's ailments and infirmities, their cause and cure. "On the matter of diet they are not so much in agreement," he continued.

"No?" said Mrs. Sappleton, in a voice which only replaced a yawn at the last moment. Then she suddenly brightened into alert attention - but not to what Framton was saying.

"Here they are at last!" she cried. "Just in time for tea, and don't they look as if they were muddy up to the eyes!"

Framton shivered slightly and turned towards the niece with a look intended to convey

sympathetic comprehension. The child was staring out through the open window with dazed horror in her eyes. In a chill shock of nameless fear Framton swung round in his seat and looked in the same direction.

In the deepening twilight three figures were walking across the lawn towards the window; they all carried guns under their arms, and one of them was additionally burdened with a white coat hung over his shoulders. A tired brown spaniel kept close at their heels. Noiselessly they neared the house, and then a hoarse young voice chanted out of the dusk: "I said, Bertie, why do you bound?"

Framton grabbed wildly at his stick and hat; the hall-door, the gravel-drive, and the front gate were dimly-noted stages in his headlong retreat. A cyclist coming along the road had to run into the hedge to avoid an imminent collision.

"Here we are, my dear," said the bearer of the white mackintosh, coming in through the window; "fairly muddy, but most of it's dry. Who was that who bolted out as we came up?"

"A most extraordinary man, a Mr. Nuttel," said Mrs. Sappleton; "could only talk about his illnesses, and dashed off without a word of good-bye or apology when you arrived. One would think he had seen a ghost."

"I expect it was the spaniel," said the niece calmly; "he told me he had a horror of dogs. He was once hunted into a cemetery somewhere on the banks of the Ganges by a pack of pariah dogs, and had to spend the night in a newly dug grave with the creatures snarling and grinning and foaming just above him. Enough to make anyone their nerve."

Romance at short notice was her specialty. **

***** "Romance at short notice was her specialty" is Saki's way of saying that Vera was good at making up stories quickly.***

Multiple Choice Questions. Circle the correct answer. (30pts: 1pt each)

1. What is Framton Nuttel's primary reason for visiting the countryside?

a. To meet Mrs. Sappleton

b. To undergo a nerve cure

c. To go hunting

d. To visit his sister

2. What does Framton's sister provide him with to help him socialize?

a. A social calendar

b. A local guide

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3. According to the niece's story, what happened to Mrs. Sappleton's husband and brothers?

a. They were lost at sea

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4. What animal was supposedly lost with the men, according to the niece's story?

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5. What is Framton's reaction when he sees the figures approaching the house?

a. He screams in terror

b. He excuses himself

c. He grabs his stick and hat and flees

d. He faints on the spot

6. What item does Mrs. Sappleton's husband carry over his arm in both the niece's story and reality?

a. A hunting rifle

b. A walking stick

c. A black coat

d. A white waterproof coat

7. What elaborate story does the niece invent to explain Framton's sudden departure?

a. He saw a ghost in the window

b. He was bitten by dogs as a child

c. He was afraid of ghosts haunting the house

d. He had been traumatized by pariah dogs near the Ganges

8. What is the significance of the open window in Mrs. Sappleton's story?

a. It's her husband's preferred entrance

b. It provides ventilation on warm days

c. It's broken and can't be closed

d. It keeps the house cool

9. How does Mrs. Sappleton react when Framton discusses his health issues?

a. She shows deep concern

b. She almost yawns and appears distracted

c. She offers medical advice

d. She changes the subject immediately

10. What time of year does the story take place?

a. September

b. October

c. November

d. December

11. What specific details does the niece include in her final fabricated story about Framton?

a. He was chased by wolves in Romania

b. He was petting dogs in the Ganges

c. He spent a night in a grave

d. He had a traumatic experience in a hospital

12. How does the story characterize the niece's talent in its final line?

a. She was quick to expose her family's secrets

b. She excelled in entertaining the guests

c. She was swift in making up stories

d. She was a reliable young lady

13. What were the men actually doing when they returned?

a. Snipe shooting

b. Fox hunting

c. Fishing

d. Hiking

14. What concern does Mrs. Sappleton express about the hunters' return?

a. They'll track mud everywhere

b. They'll be late for tea

c. They'll need dry clothes

d. They'll make a mess of her carpets

15. What aspect of these visits troubles Framton regarding his cure?

a. The strange stories he hears

b. Their formal nature

c. The rural setting

d. The weather conditions

16. What does Framton notice about the room that suggests "masculine habitation"?

a. Hunting equipment on display

b. Men's clothing visible

c. An undefinable quality

d. The room's furnishings

17. How does the niece alter her voice while telling the tragic story?

a. It becomes more dramatic

b. It becomes hesitantly human

c. It grows louder

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18. What is the primary example of dramatic irony in the story?

a. The reader knows Framton's health condition while the other characters don't

b. The reader knows Mrs. Sappleton is delusional while Framton doesn't

c. The reader knows the niece's story is false while Framton believes it

d. The reader knows that the open window is actually closed while Framton doesn't

19. The phrase "Romance at short notice was her specialty" is an example of:

a. Metaphor

b. Verbal irony

c. Hyperbole

d. Imagery

20. The open window functions in the story as:

a. A metaphor

b. A symbol of deception

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21. The description of Vera as "a very self-possessed young lady" is an example of:

a. Situational irony

b. Characterization

c. Personification

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22. The story's structure builds tension through:

a. Flashbacks

b. Foreshadowing

c. Stream of consciousness

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23. In the passage "...the hall-door, the gravel-drive, and the front gate were dimly-noted stages in his headlong retreat," the author primarily uses:

a. Kinesthetic Imagery

b. Auditory Imagery

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24. What is the point of view of the story?

a. First person point of view

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25. The phrase "noiselessly they neared" contains:

a. Consonance

b. Assonance

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26. Which theme is MOST prominently explored in "The Open Window"?

a. The power of imagination over reality

b. The conflict between urban and rural life

c. The importance of family bonds

d. The effects of illness on society

27. The story's commentary on social conventions is best illustrated by:

a. Framton's forced social visits

b. The open window's symbolism

c. Mrs. Sappleton's hunting habits

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28. The characterization of Vera is ironic because:

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30.Which explanation BEST describes the theme of appearance versus reality in "The Open Window"?

a. Things are not always what they seem because social politeness can hide true intentions, as shown through Vera's proper manners masking her deceptive nature

b. Reality is hard to determine because the story takes place in a rural setting where mysterious events often occur

c. Appearances can be misleading because people often misunderstand each other in formal social situations

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