



*Example exercise only*

# Literacy and Mathematics Exercise

*This exercise should take around one hour to complete.  
Do not worry if you cannot answer all the questions – just do  
the best you can.*

**WRITE YOUR NAME CLEARLY IN THE BOX BELOW**



6. **Put in the missing apostrophes, capitals and quotation marks in the following sentences:**

Historians of sugar, beginning with sidney mintzs landmark book sweetness and power, have noticed that the way children and nations become addicted to sugar follows similar paths. A little sugar in an infants diet trains the child to become dependent on it throughout life as an emotional reward and psychological prop. In a similar way, governments come to rely on a thriving sugar trade to grow their nations economy and power. (6)

7. **Circle the correct antonym from the list which means the opposite of the word in red in the sentence below:**

The audience were **interested** in the lecture and listened to all the speaker had to say.

bored   excited   discourteous   enraged   engaged (1)

8. **Circle the correct word from the choices given to complete the sentence below:**

The designer said the colour of the bed cover ..... the carpet beautifully.

complemented   clashed   complimented   spoilt   supported (1)

**Section B:** *Spend around 30 minutes on this section before moving on to Section C.*

- Read this short extract and then answer questions 1-5 below.
- Write in **proper sentences** and give as **full answers** as you can.
- Don't worry if you run out of time for this section and can't answer all the questions, just **do as many as you can**.

**Poor Things, Chapter One, by Alasdair Gray**

Like most farm workers in those days my mother distrusted banks. When death drew near she told me her life-savings were in a tin trunk under the bed and muttered, "Take it and count it."

I did, and the sum was more than I had expected. She said "Make something of yourself with it."

I told her I would make myself a doctor, and her mouth twisted in the sceptical grimace she made at all queer suggestions. A moment later she whispered fiercely, "Don't pay a penny toward the burial. If Scraffles puts me in a pauper's grave then Hell mend him! Promise you'll keep all my money to yourself."

*Scraffles* was the local nickname for my father and for a disease that afflicts badly fed poultry. *Scraffles* did pay for her burial but told me, "I leave the stone to you."

Twelve years passed before I could afford a proper monument, and by then nobody remembered the position of the grave.

At university my clothes and manners announced my farm-servant origins, and as I would let nobody sneer at me on that account I was usually alone outside the lecture theatres and examination hall. At the end of the first term, a professor called me to his room and said, "Mr. McCandless, in a just world I could predict a brilliant future for you, but not in this one, unless you make some changes. You may become a greater surgeon than Hunter, a finer obstetrician than Simpson, a better healer than Lister, but unless you acquire a touch of smooth lordliness or easy-going humour no patient will trust you, other doctors will shun you. Don't scorn a polite appearance because many fools, snobs and scoundrels have that. If you cannot afford a good coat from a good tailor, search for one that fits you among forfeited pledges in the better pawnshops. Sleep with your

trousers neatly folded between two boards under your mattress. If you cannot change your linen every day at least contrive to attach a freshly starched collar to your shirt. Attend conversaciones and smoking-concerts arranged by the class you are studying to join – you will not find us a bad set of people, and will gradually fit in by a process of instinctive imitation.”

I told him my money could pay for no more than my fees, books, instruments and keep.

“But I knew that was your trouble!” cried he triumphantly. “But our senate handles bequests for deserving cases like yours. Most of the grants go to divinity students but why should science be excluded? I think we can arrange to give you at least the price of a new suit, if you approach us in the right way and I put in a word. What do you say? Shall we attempt it?”

Had he said – “I think you are entitled to a bursary, this is how to apply, and I will be your referee” – had he said that I could have thanked him; but he lolled back in his chair, hands clasped on bulging waistcoat, simpering up at me (for I had not been invited to sit) with such a sweet coy smug smile that I pocketed my fists to avoid punching his teeth. Instead I told him I came from a part of Galloway where folk disliked begging for charity, but since he had a high opinion of my talents we could arrange to profit us both. I suggested he lend me a hundred pounds, for which I would repay seven and a half per cent on the anniversary of the loan until my fifth year as general practitioner or third as professional consultant, when I would refund the original lump and add a twenty pound bonus. He gaped, so I added swiftly, “Of course I will be bankrupt if I fail to graduate, or get struck early off the Register, but I think I am a safe investment. What do you think? Shall we try it?”

“You are joking?” he murmured, staring at me hard, his lips twitching with the beginnings of a smile he wanted me to imitate. Being too angry to grin at the joke I shrugged, said good-bye and left.

There was perhaps a connection between this interview and an envelope addressed in an unknown hand which came through the post a week later. It contained a five-pound banknote, most of which I spent on a second-hand microscope, the rest on shirts and collars.

## Questions (1-5):

- Write in *in complete sentences*.
- Give as *full answers as you can*.

1. **Where did Mr. McCandless get the money for his studies?** (2)

2. **Who is Scraffles and does this name suggest anything about him?** (3)

3. **Why does the professor suggest Mr. McCandless “make some changes”?** (5)

4. How does Mr. McCandless respond to the professor's advice and what does this tell us about him? (5)

5. Do you agree or disagree with the professor's advice to Mr. McCandless? Why do you agree or disagree? (5)

**Section C: Mathematics Parts 1 & 2.** Spend around **25 minutes** on this section.

PART 1: Do not use a calculator. ENSURE YOUR FINAL ANSWER IS CLEAR.

1. Write the number 8092 in words.

2.  $506 + 89 + 14 =$

3.  $3308 - 740 =$

4.  $6 \times 9 =$

5.  $432 \div 6 =$

6.  $-16 + 5 =$

7.  $468 \times 42 =$

8.  $8^2 =$



9. Calculate  $\frac{2}{5}$  of 60

10.  $-8x - 2 =$

PART 2: You *may* use a calculator if needed. ENSURE YOUR FINAL ANSWER IS CLEAR.

11. A lottery win of £83,340 must be divided between a syndicate of 9 people. How much does each person get?

12. If the cost of one text book is £7.42, how much would it cost to supply a class of 33 students with one book each?

13. There are 62 people on a coach; 24 people get off the coach and 16 people get on. How many people are there on the coach?

14. Twenty-seven people were on a bus. At the first stop, 16 people got off and 12 people got on. At the second stop 18 people got off and 22 got on. How many people were then on the bus in total?

15. A shop measures 6.2m by 8.7m. What is the area of the shop?

16.  $8 + (2 \times 9) =$

17.  $\sqrt{9409} =$

18. Calculate the area of a circle of radius 15cm (use the formula  $\pi r^2$ , taking  $\pi$  as 3.142). Write your answer to 2 decimal places.

19. Simplify the expression  $5a + 4b + 6a + b$

20. Anne buys 1 newspaper costing £1.25, 1 birthday card costing £2.30, 1 drink costing £0.82 and a chocolate bar. She pays with a £10 note and receives £4.41 in change. What was the cost of the chocolate bar?

**END OF EXERCISE**