**English Language Paper 1**

**Reading Practice: Darkside – Tom Becker**

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| **Q1 – 4 marks (5 minutes)**  Use lines 1-3.  List four things you learn about Jonathan’s thoughts and feelings. | It wasn’t what he had expected. It wasn’t like anything he had ever imagined. Jonathan stood motionless, barely even breathing, and tried to take everything in. His senses were working overtime, struggling to make sense of the scene before him.  He had come out on to a narrow cobbled street that bubbled with a cauldron of voices: garbled shouts, throaty cries, squawks of protest and snarled threats. A procession of horse-drawn carriages filed past in front of him, and Jonathan’s ears reverberated to the rumble of the wheels and the loud clopping of hooves on the cobblestones. On either side of the street, a row of tall, soot-covered buildings leaned menacingly towards each other like boxers. Above their high arched roofs, towering chimney stacks punctuated the skyline, bellowing dense clouds of smoke that turned the air into a permanent night. A milky full moon shone weakly through the acrid haze.  Jonathan began to cough violently – whether from the smoke stinging his lungs or the foul stench that pervaded the street he wasn’t sure. No one around him seemed affected by the atmosphere. Despite the late hour, the pavements were thronged with a mass of people ebbing and flowing in every direction. They were all dressed in old-fashioned clothing: the men in suits, long cloaks and high stovepipe hats, and the woman in ankle length dresses and shawls. Jonathan couldn’t help but gape at them. It was as if he had travelled back in time.  But as passers-by hurried under the faint illumination of the street lamps, he realised that it wasn’t just their clothing that was strange. Every now and then he caught a fleeting glimpse of something that unnerved him: a gentleman with red lipstick smeared over his mouth grinned at his companion, revealing a set of sharp, protruding front teeth; a woman with the vacant eyes of a sleepwalker wandered past, nails clawing at her exposed skin; from somewhere in the folds of a dress or the confines of a suit, a blade glinted evilly. Despite the pandemonium, the pushing and the jostling of the crowd, there were some whose path was always clear; space opened up magically around them. Jonathan realized that he was in serious danger. | **Q4 – Evaluate 20 marks (25 minutes)**  Focus this part of your answer on line 16 to the end.  A student said “The setting is becoming increasingly dangerous; the reader begins to fear for Jonathan’s safety.”  To what extent do you agree?  In your response, you could:   * Consider your own impressions of the setting * Evaluate how the writer has created a dangerous setting which prompts the reader to fear for Jonathan’s safety. * Support your opinions with references to the text. |
| **Q2 – Language Analysis 8 marks** **(15 minutes)**  Using lines 5-12.  How does the writer use language to describe the setting? |
| **Q3 – Structure Analysis**  **8 marks (15 minutes)**  Use the whole source.  How does the writer structure the text to interest you as a reader? |