**English Language Paper 1**

**Reading Practice: Library of Souls – Ransom Riggs**

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| **Q1 – 4 marks (5 minutes)**  Use lines 1-5.  List four things you learn about the setting. | A vast, lunar bog stretched away into the mist from either side of the path, just brown grass and tea-colored water as far as I could see, featureless but for the occasional mound of piled-up stones. It ended abruptly at a forest of skeletal trees, branches spindling up like the tips of wet paintbrushes, and for a while the path became so lost beneath fallen trunks and carpets of ivy that navigating it was a matter of faith.   My grandfather had described it a hundred times, but in his stories the house was always a bright, happy place—big and rambling, yes, but full of light and laughter. What stood before me now was no refuge from monsters but a monster itself, staring down from its perch on the hill with vacant hunger. Trees burst forth from broken windows and skins of scabrous vine gnawed at the walls like antibodies attacking a virus—as if nature itself had waged war against it—but the house seemed unkillable, resolutely upright despite the wrongness of its angles and the jagged teeth of sky visible through sections of collapsed roof.  Climbing down into the yard, I circled the house looking for a way in, taking the measure of the place, but it seemed almost without measure, as though with every corner I turned the house sprouted new balconies and turrets and chimneys. Then I came around back and saw my opportunity: a doorless doorway, bearded with vines, gaping and black; an open mouth just waiting to swallow me.  Just looking at it made my skin crawl, but I hadn’t come halfway around the world just to run away screaming at the sight of a scary house. I thought of all the horrors Grandpa Portman had faced in his life, and felt my resolve harden. If there was anyone to find inside, I would find them. I mounted the crumbling steps and crossed the threshold.  Standing in a tomb-dark hallway just inside the door, I stared frozenly at what looked like skins hanging from hooks. After a queasy moment in which I imagined some twisted cannibal leaping from the shadows with knife in hand, I realized they were only coats rotted to rags and green with age. I shuddered involuntarily and took a deep breath. I’d only explored ten feet of the house and was already about to foul my underwear. *Keep it together*, I told myself, and then slowly moved forward, heart hammering in my chest.  I stood in the sudden breeze and began to get the feeling that something terrible had happened here. | **Q4 – Evaluate 20 marks (25 minutes)**  Focus this part of your answer on line 14 to the end.  A student said “It’s clear that the narrator is both overwhelmed by fear and desperately attempting to remain calm.’  To what extent do you agree?  In your response, you could:   * Consider your own impressions of the narrator’s emotions. * Evaluate how the writer conveys the narrator’s overwhelming fear and attempts to remain calm. * Support your opinions with references to the text. |
| **Q2 – Language Analysis 8 marks** **(15 minutes)**  Using lines 6-13.  How does the writer use language to describe the house? |
| **Q3 – Structure Analysis**  **8 marks (15 minutes)**  Use the whole source.  How does the writer structure the text to interest you as a reader? |