



**THE  
AMERICAN  
ACADEMY  
NICOSIA**  
PRIVATE SCHOOL  
EST. 1922

# **The American Academy Nicosia**

## **Entrance Examinations for Year 7**

Serial number: 202212

### **Sample 1**

#### **English**

**Time Allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes**

- There are three sections in this exam (A, B, and C). Complete all of them.
- Read all instructions carefully
- If you cannot answer a particular question, move on to the next one without losing time.

Candidate's Number:

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**OR**

Candidate's Name:

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## **Section A: Reading Comprehension (30 marks)**

“Monkey-chaser” and “teacher’s pet”- that’s what the children in her new school call Phyllisia. They don’t like her because she’s an outsider. She comes from the West Indies, speaks with a different accent, and can answer more questions in class. Then comes the **dreadful** day when nearly all the class gang up on her and wait for her after school. They attack her, and she is terrified. She feels angry and **frustrated** and tries to explain the situation to her mother. Her sister Ruby has found her own way of dealing with the bullies, but Phyllisia is **reluctant** to take her advice.



Rushing into the apartment, planning to hide in my room, I ran right into my mother’s arms feeling **ashamed**. “Bon Dieu” she cried after one look at my face. “What is this? What have they done to you?”

The look of my mother — tall, and with an olive complexion with black, black eyes - has always awed me. As I saw her now, heard her voice, rich, deep, softened by the French Creole of The Island — it tickled the pores of my skin, thickened my throat with unshed tears and jumbled my words as they fell thick and heavy from my swollen lips.

“Al — all the chi — child — ren bunch up and wa - ant to fi — fight me.” I said.

“Want to? From the look of your face I would say they did fight you.” She called to my sister. “Ruby, Ruby, bring me a basin of water and a rag.” Mother yelled.

Then pulling me into the living room, she sat on the couch holding me to her knees. “Tell me, Phyllisia, why? Don’t the children like you?”

Everybody hates me!

“But why do they hate you?”, mum wondered.

“I answer the questions the teacher asks and — and the girl behind says that I’m the teacher’s pet.

And when I come downstairs they all stand around waiting . . .”

“How long has this been going on?” Mum asked.

“Since the beginning. They say all kinds of nasty things to — to me.”

“Nasty things like what?” Mother asked.

“They call me monkey chaser.” Phyllisia replied.

Ruby had come into the room with the basin of water. Mother turned to her: “Do you have trouble like this, Ruby?”

“No, Mother.” Ruby replied.

“Why is that? Is it because the children are older in your school?”

The pity in her voice pushed me to the brink of hysterics. “No. They hate me!”

“It’s because I don’t stick my hand in the air all the time and try to prove how smart

I am.” Ruby spoke in her usual vain, airy manner. “After all, Mother, you know how Phyllisia is. If she did not try to act so smart and know-it-all, she would not be opening up her mouth and continually be reminding the children where she comes from.”

All of my self-pity turned into a need for revenge. But I held myself at Mother’s knees not to rush up and scratch at her pretty face.

Mother’s eyes had widened. A pulse beat rapidly at her delicate throat. “Ruby, are you standing there telling me that you do not answer questions in class because you are ashamed of where you come from?”

Ruby did not notice the reproach in Mother’s voice and went on in the same manner, “Well, the children don’t like it and the teachers don’t demand it, so why call attention to oneself? Sometimes when the children don’t know the answer, I even help them.”

Horrified, Mother cried: “Is that so? For shame, for shame, Ruby. I did not know that you were ashamed of yourself.”

“I am not ashamed of myself, Mother.” Ruby hated to be scolded.

Tears rose quickly to her eyes. “But I want people to like me.”

“Ruby, you are a nice-looking girl. You are well-mannered. If you can also add intelligence to that list, then you must look elsewhere for the reasons people don’t like you.”

Mother’s displeasure gave me new confidence. “Mother” I pleaded, “I don’t want to go back to that school tomorrow. Please, don’t make me go back to that school.” “You have to go,” mother she said quietly. “You are a West Indian girl going to school in New York and you are proud. So, you must fight, you must”.

For a moment Phyllisia stared at her mother. She thought of everyone that hated her and made her life difficult and wanted to burst into tears. She then replied to her mum angrily: ‘I will use my intelligence, but I certainly do not want to be killed either’. ‘I can’t fight them all’ Phyllisia shouted!

**A. Answer the following questions in full sentences.**

1. Where does Phyllisia come from? (1 mark)

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2. Why do the children at the new school not like her? Give three reasons. (3 marks)

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3. Why was she terrified that day? What had happened? (2 marks)

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4. What language does Phyllisia speak at home with her family? (1 mark)

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5. Why did hearing her mother's voice and accent make Phyllisia want to cry? (2 marks)

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6. Ruby says she is not being bullied, Why not? Give three reasons. (3 marks)

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7. How does Phyllisia feel about her sister's reply? (2 marks)

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8. How does Ruby deal with the situation herself? (3 marks)

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9. How does the mother feel when she finds out how Ruby deals with the situation? Why does she say 'for shame, for shame, Ruby'? (3 marks)

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10. What does Phyllisia's mother advise her to do instead of leaving her school? (3 marks)

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11. How does Phyllisia feel about this? Why? (3 marks)

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**B. Look at these words taken from the text. Give a word or phrase that has a similar meaning. (4 marks)**

1. dreadful (Paragraph 1)

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2. frustrated (Paragraph 1)

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3. Reluctant (Paragraph 1)

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4. Ashamed (Paragraph 2)

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**Section B: Grammar (40 marks)**

**A. Change to the plural. (8 marks)**

**Examples:** I am excited. **We are excited**

Look at her! **Look at them!**

1. Is that woman your teacher?

.....

2. Is that her car?

.....

3. Look at this bad tooth

.....

4. There is a person standing outside.

.....

5. The leaf has fallen off the tree.

.....

6. Who is that child over there?

.....

7. The baby isn't crying now.

.....

8. Your foot is small.

.....

**B. Complete with the correct form of present simple or the present continuous. (6 marks)**

**Example:** Every Sunday, Chloe visits her grandmother but today she is visiting her aunt.

1. Chloe ..... (buys/is buying) a magazine every month.
2. She ..... (sits/is sitting) at her computer at the moment.
3. Jack usually ..... (doesn't read/isn't reading) magazines.
4. Adam..... (calls/is calling) his dad right now.
5. Chloe..... (talks/is talking) to Jack every day.
6. He never..... (is saving/saves) his e-mails.

**C. Complete with correct form of past simple or past continuous. (8 marks)**

**Example:** Last night as we were watching TV the telephone rang.

1. What.....you..... (do) at 9 o'clock last night?
2. I ..... (have) a bath at 9 o'clock last night.
3. ....you (walk) to school yesterday?
4. While I ..... (cook) my brother .....(help) dad in the garden.
5. She ..... (sleep) when I ..... (arrive) home.
6. They ..... (not like) the movie it was boring.
7. I ..... (not see) you at Mary's wedding why not?
8. While they..... (watch) TV last night the lights went out.

**D. Make questions to suit the answers in bold. (7 marks)**

1. ....?

My father is **an engineer**.

2. ....?

Yes, I've got **two sisters**.

3. ....?

We've got **35 euro**.

4. Would.....?

Yes, please I 'm very thirsty.

5. ....guitar?

Yes, I can and I can also play the piano.

6. ....the beach yesterday?

No, I didn't I went to the mountains.

7. ....volleyball?

No she isn't. She's playing tennis.

E. **Correct the mistakes and rewrite the sentences: (6 marks)**

**Example:** Who's car is that? ... **WHOSE** car is that?

- 1 The boys sitting on the grass. ....
- 2 Were is your bike .....
- 3 Toms book is on the table .....
- 4 My sister is tall than me .....
- 5 Did you ate spaghetti last night? .....
- 6 He hasn't nowhere to stay .....

F. **Find the opposite of the word in brackets.** (5 marks)

Example: Please give me a .....**small**.....packet of biscuits (LARGE)

- 1 Stay here where it is ..... (DANGEROUS)
- 2 Give me the .....answer to the question  
(WRONG)
- 3 That TV is very..... (CHEAP)
- 4 He has a huge house and lots of money because he is ..... (POOR)
- 5 You can use this .....cloth (DRY)



## **Section C: Writing (30 marks)**

### **Choose one of the following topics:**

- a. Write a story with the titled: 'The strangest day'
- b. Write a story for a magazine about an adventure you will never forget.

Write between **120 to 180 words**. Use the prompts below to organize your essay.

#### **Introduction**

- When and where did the story take place?
- Describe the setting
- Who is the main character in the story?
- Name the other characters in the story besides the main character

#### **Main Body**

- What happened?
- What did the main character do
- What did the other characters do?
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#### **Conclusion**

- What happened in the end?
- Describe feelings and thoughts

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- You must use paragraphs and time words
  - Try to use interesting vocabulary to make your story more exciting (strong active verbs, adjectives, adverbs, expressions, similes, metaphors)
  - Try including setting descriptions to create atmosphere
  - A mix of simple and complex sentences for effect
  - Punctuation for dramatic effect
  - Use description and dialogue to present your characters
  - Make sure you use appropriate tenses.
  - Check for spelling and grammar mistakes.