

English test file 1 : encounters

1. Vocabulary (donner la nature du mot) [5 pts]

calomnie		but	
s'intégrer		rayure	
conscience		tremblant	
être obsédé par		quotidiennement	
ni... ni...		mec bizarre	
de son âge		faire penser à	
parsemé		placard	
contrairement à		conformément à	
un flot de		alors que	
narration à la 1 ^{ère} pers		un complice	

2. Speaking tools:

➡ capacities / hypotheses [5 pts]

Answer each question with a sentence; don't use the same expression twice.

- Why did Mrs Shears call the police?
- Do you think it is hard to take care of Christopher on a daily basis?
- What may the policeman have thought when he arrested Christopher?
- Why do you think he likes stars so much?
- Why did Christopher feel so comfortable in his prison cell?

➡ differences and similarities / capacities [5 pts]

Don't use the same speaking tool twice.

- Compare Christopher or Sam to the young people you see around you. (3 sentences)
- Compare his world to the world of people who are not like him. (2 sentences)

3. Understanding the text: Christopher and his father [10 pts]

1. what do you learn about Father, Mother and Rhodri?
2. what shows, in Christopher's way of telling the episode, that he is autistic?
3. what shows, in Christopher's reaction to the news, that he is autistic?
4. what may have happened to Christopher's mother?
5. do you think Christopher's father is telling the truth? Why or why not? (hypothesis)

4. Writing

You are Christopher writing his diary: write a short chapter in which Christopher tells how he and Siobhan dealt with the news. [180-200 words] You should try to imitate Christopher's style.

[15 pts]

43. *Mother died 2 years ago.*

1 *I came home from school one day and no one answered the door, so I went and found the secret key that we keep under a flowerpot behind the kitchen door. I let myself into the house and carried on making the Airfix Sherman tank model I was building.*

5 *An hour and a half later Father came home from work. He runs a business and he does heating maintenance and boiler repair with a man called Rhodri who is his employee. He knocked on the door of my room and opened it and asked whether I had seen Mother.*

I said that I hadn't seen her and he went downstairs and started making some phone calls. I didn't hear what he said.

10 *Then he came up to my room and said he had to go out for a while and he wasn't sure how long he would be. He said that if I needed anything I should call him on his mobile phone.*

He was away for 2 ½ hours. When he came back I went downstairs. He was sitting in the kitchen staring out of the back window down the garden to the pond and the corrugated iron fence and the top of the tower of the church on Manstead Street which looks like a castle because it is Norman.

Father said, "I'm afraid you won't be seeing your mother for a while."

15 *He didn't look at me when he said this. He kept on looking through the window.*

Usually people look at you when they're talking to you. I know that they're working out what I'm thinking, but I can't tell what they're thinking. It is like being in a room with a one-way mirror in a spy film. But this was nice, having Father speak to me but not look at me.

I said, "Why not?"

20 *He waited for a very long time, then he said, "Your mother has had to go into hospital."*

"Can we visit her?" I asked, because I like hospitals. I like the uniforms and the machines.

Father said, "No."

I said, "Why can't we?"

And he said, "She needs rest. She needs to be on her own."

25 *I asked, "Is it a psychiatric hospital?"*

And Father said, "No. It's an ordinary hospital. She has a problem... a problem with her heart."