

**Collège Notre-Dame
de Jamhour**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total

English Exam
Grade 9 - 60 minutes
February 2013

Nom.....
Classe.....

Down and Out in Paris and London

George Orwell is one of Britain’s best-known authors of the **20th** century, responsible for such famous works as *Animal Farm* and **1984**. However, there was a period in his life when things didn’t go so well for him.

Down and Out in Paris and London is Orwell’s semi-autobiographical account of living in poverty in both cities. The narrative begins in Paris where Orwell lived for two years, attempting to make a living by giving English lessons and writing reviews and articles for magazines. (1) After days without food, he finally found a hotel job with his Russian friend, Boris. There, he ended up working long hours as a dishwasher and kitchen assistant in a hotel, where he earned barely enough to survive.

He describes his routine life as the one of the working poor in Paris as: slaving then sleeping, slaving then sleeping, then drinking on a Saturday night through to Sunday morning, which briefly made his life seem bearable. (2) He describes a murder which happened just outside his window, and says, “The thing that strikes me in looking back is that I was in bed and asleep within 3 minutes of the murder... **We were working people and where was the sense of wasting sleep over murder?**”

In the hope of a better job and more money, Orwell moves to working in a restaurant, but the owner doesn’t pay him for **10** days and so he’s reduced to sleeping on a park bench rather than facing his landlady over non-payment of rent.

..... (3) He blames the dreadful existence of the fellow workers for turning them all into zombies, “[They have] been trapped by a routine which makes thought impossible. If [they] thought at all, they would long ago have ... gone on strike for better treatment. But they do not think, because they have no leisure for it; their life has made slaves of them.”

Orwell travels to London having been promised that a job is waiting for him. However, he can’t start work because his new employer has gone on holiday. (4)

At the end of the book, Orwell summed up what he had learned from his experience of living in poverty, “At present, I do not feel that I have seen more than the fringe of poverty. (5) I shall never

again think that all tramps are drunken scoundrels, nor expect a beggar to be grateful when I give him a penny, nor be surprised if men out of work lack energy.”

These experiences led Orwell to strengthen his democratic socialist beliefs. He blames wealthy people for being ignorant of the reality of poverty. He said that the rich were afraid of the poor: they didn’t want to give them freedom from poverty, because they thought that the poor would then threaten their own way of life. (6) His subsequent novels, *Animal Farm* and *1984*, depict worlds where people in authority have gone horribly out of control. He showed us how difficult it is to make a fair and just society, but he didn’t want the human race to stop trying.

Read the text. (10 minutes)

A- Match the sentences A-G with gaps 1-6. There is one extra sentence that you do not need. (5 minutes) 6 points

- A- He recounts how this life had a severe effect on his humanity.
- B- Having found a job and started to earn some money, he improved his life dramatically.
- C- However, when this work dried up, he had to start selling his possessions while he tried to search for more work.
- D- Until his boss returns, he finds himself sleeping on the streets of the city with the other poor and unemployed.
- E- Still I can point to one or two things I have definitely learned by being hard up.
- F- He finds himself working seventeen and a half hours a day in the restaurant, almost without a break.
- G- However, Orwell was also completely against totalitarianism in any form.

B- Are the sentences true or false? The answers might be in the sentences of the previous exercise. Write T or F and justify by quoting the text. (10 minutes) 8 points

1- *Down and Out in Paris and London* is an extract account of Orwell’s experiences in the two cities.
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2- Orwell took a job in a hotel because he was fed up with teaching and writing.
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3- He earned very little money working in the hotel.

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4- One night, Orwell couldn't sleep because someone was killed near his room.

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5- Orwell slept outside in the open in both Paris and London.

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6- Orwell thought that it was the workers' own fault that they had such dreadful working conditions.

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7- Orwell had a lot of sympathy for tramps and beggars.

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8- Orwell thought that socialism was good as long as it didn't turn into totalitarianism.

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C- There are three numbers in bold in the text. Write them down in full letters. (2 minutes) 1.5 points

1984:

20th:

10:

D- Answer the following questions in your own words. (25 minutes)

a- Is George Orwell known? Why? 2 points

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b- What kind of life did he have? Detail. 5 points

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c- Explain in your own words the last sentence of paragraph 3: ...*We were working people and where was the sense of wasting sleep over murder.* 3 points

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d- When he moves to working in a restaurant and the owner doesn't pay him for 10 days, he sleeps on a park bench, why? 2 points

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e- Why are his fellow workers turned into zombies? Explain. 3 points

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f- What did Orwell learn from his experience of poverty? 3 points

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g- Why did Orwell blame the rich people? 2 points

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GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY (8 minutes) 10 points

A- Complete the sentences with the correct form of the following verbs or expressions:

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|----------|---|--------------------|---|-------------|---|----------------|---|
| Achieve | - | Tighten one's belt | - | Manage | - | Reach | - |
| Succeed | - | Put aside | - | Be hard up | - | Made a killing | - |
| Work out | - | Splash out | - | Put up with | - | Look down on | - |

- 1- Did you to finish your homework?
- 2- Last week, we on a new car, so we'll have
..... over the next few months.
- 3- James in getting into university to study law.
- 4- I hope Zoe her ambition of becoming a pop star.
- 5- I some money for the holidays.
- 6- We aimed to raise \$200 to buy new books for the library, but we failed to
our target.
- 7- Things well for us since we moved to London.
- 8- My uncle lost his job so he until he can find another.
- 9- I won't with your insolent behavior for a moment longer!