



Empire of the Sun

English Past Exam Questions

Ordinary Level

2012

Paper 2 – Section 1 – Question B

B **EMPIRE OF THE SUN** – J. G. Ballard

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe Jim’s life in Shanghai before the war. (10)
- (b) Why, in your opinion, does Jim admire the Japanese?
Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Explain what you find most interesting about Basie, the American man Jim meets several times during the course of the novel. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) ‘Jim will do almost anything to survive.’
Do you agree with this statement? Base your answer on your knowledge of the novel.

OR

- (ii) Which one of the following statements about J.G. Ballard’s novel, *Empire of the Sun*, do you most agree with?
- It is a story about the horrors of war.
 - It is a story about survival.
 - It is a story about heroism.

Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are Jim, imprisoned in Lunghua camp during World War Two. Write two diary entries in which you record some of your experiences. Your response should be based on your knowledge of the novel.