BENENDEN

Lower School Entrance Exam 2016

ENGLISH

11+

1 Hour

Name: _____

School: _____

Date: _____

Instructions to Candidates:

- Answer all parts of Question A, and Question B, which is on page 11, spending **30 minutes** on each.
- Total marks for this exam = 100

QUESTION A

Spend 10 minutes reading this carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

Winter Rain

Every valley drinks,
Every dell and hollow:
Where the kind rain sinks and sinks,
Green of Spring will follow.

Yet a lapse of weeks
Buds will burst their edges,
Strip their wool-coats, glue-coats, streaks,
In the woods and hedges;

Weave a bower* of love
For birds to meet each other,
Weave a canopy above
Nest and egg and mother.

But for fattening rain
We should have no flowers,
Never a bud or leaf again
But for soaking showers;

Never a mated bird
In the rocking tree-tops,
Never indeed a flock or herd
To graze upon the lea**-crops.

Lambs so woolly white,
Sheep the sun-bright leas** on,
They could have no grass to bite
But for rain in season.

We should find no moss
In the shadiest places,
Find no waving meadow grass
Pied*** with broad-eyed daisies:

But miles of barren sand,
With never a son or daughter,
Not a lily on the land,
Or lily on the water.

By Christina Rossetti

* A pleasant shady place beneath trees or climbing plants
** An open area of grassy land
*** Two coloured

1) Time is an important theme in this poem. Pick out three individual words in the poem directly connected to time. (3 marks)

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2) Rewrite what you think the fourth verse is about in your own words. (3 marks)

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3) Explain in your own words four things that Rossetti believes we would not have without winter rain. (4 marks)

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4) What is Christina Rossetti's attitude towards winter rain? Use examples from the poem to support your ideas. (15 marks)

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5) What do you notice about the way that Christina Rossetti has written this poem? Think about anything that you notice about the structure, the language, interesting words or anything else that you think might be important.

(25 marks)

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QUESTION B

Write a description of the weather and how it affects a particular place. It can be anywhere you like: real, imagined, city or countryside. You could choose a rain soaked scene, baking heat, or any other weather you would like. Use your writing abilities to make your writing vivid and interesting for the reader.

(50 marks)

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END OF EXAM