BENENDEN

Lower School Entrance 2017

ENGLISH

11+

1 Hour

Name: _____

School: _____

Date: _____

Instructions to Candidates:

- Answer all parts of Question 1, and Question 2, spending 30 minutes on each.
- Write your answers in the space provided in this booklet.
- Total marks for this exam = 100.

From *The Witch Child* by Celia Rees

Read the extract carefully then answer the questions that follow, using examples from the text to back up your ideas.

Entry 15
The wind which brought the bird blows strongly from the south, driving us north. Each day the air gets colder. I write wrapped in a blanket now. I can see my breath before my face and my fingers stiffen. The sea is dark green and strangely still like glass. Huge broken fragments of ice float by us, glinting white and blue in the sun. Some pieces are small, but others are great, as big as islands. The sailors shake their heads. We are being taken too far north by wind and current. Some mutter about the great bird and view these floating islands with mournful apprehension.

The icy beauty is deceptive. Much of the bulk likes under the surface and can rip a hull from under a ship as sure as solid rock. Jonah Morse has a great eye for wonders, and although mindful of the dangers, he is excited. He has seen such before, he tells me, on a sea journey he undertook to the kingdom of Muscovy. I find the ice islands beautiful, particularly in the early morning and in the evening, when the ice gleams and takes on colour, rose and honey, from the rising or setting sun. They stand up like great rocks, or the cliffs of some icy wasteland, their bases carved and hollowed with deep blue caves and tunnels.

Our progress has slowed almost to dead stop. Sailors sound the depth, crying out the fathoms into the cold silence. The captain roams from one side of the deck to the other, pulling at his beard, brow furrowed. Occasionally he raps out orders, relayed by barking shouts and bo'sun's whistle as the ship slips by the sheer white cliffs rearing straight up from a blue black sea.

Question 1

a) How does the author describe the sea in this extract? Look at the words she uses. What do they suggest to you?

20 marks

b) What do you learn about the people in this novel from this extract?

30 marks

Question 2

Write a real or imaginative piece about the sea and use your writing skills to make it vivid and interesting for the reader.

50 marks

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Total: 100 marks