SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 7 (11+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
January 2018
for entry in September 2018

ENGLISH

Name: _____

School: _____

Time allowed: 5 minutes reading time, then 1 hour exam.
You are advised to spend approximately 35 minutes on Section A and 25 minutes on section B.

Equipment needed: Pen and lined paper

Information for candidates:

1. Dictionaries are NOT allowed.
2. Write your name and school on this page.
3. You may NOT make notes on this exam paper during the 5 minutes of reading time.
4. Write your answers on the **separate paper** provided. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use. Answer both Section A and Section B.
5. You should write in full sentences and pay attention to both spelling and punctuation.
6. The paper will be marked out of 35. The marks for each question are indicated in square brackets [ ]. 3 marks are available for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

SECTION A

Spend approximately 35 minutes on Section A

Read the following passage and answer all the questions below.

In this extract, three domestic animals - two dogs and a cat, are making their way through wild, Canadian landscape in an attempt to find their old master.

Later on, when darkness fell, the young dog moved over and stretched out closely at his side, and the cat stalked over to lie between his paws; and so, warmed and comforted by their closeness, the old dog slept, momentarily unconscious of his aching, tired body or his hunger.

In the nearby hills a timber wolf howled mournfully; owls called and answered and glided silently by with great outspread wings; and there were faint whispers of movement and small rustling noises around all through the night. Once an eerie wail like a baby's crying woke the old dog and brought him shivering and whining to his feet; but it was only a porcupine, who scrambled noisily and clumsily down a nearby tree trunk and waddled away, still crying softly. When he lay down again the cat was gone from his side – another small night hunter slipping through the unquiet shadows that froze to stillness at his passing.

The young dog slept in fitful, uneasy starts, his muscles twitching, constantly lifting his head and growling softly. Once he sprang to his feet with a full-throated roar which brought a sudden splash in the distance, then silence – and who knows what else unknown, unseen or unheard passed through his mind to disturb him further? Only one thing was clear and certain – that at all costs he was going home, home to his own beloved master. Home lay to the west, his instinct told him; but he could not leave the other two – so somehow he must take them with him, all the way.

From *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford

1. What impression does the author give of the life that these animals are leading whilst on their journey? In your answer include evidence by choosing 2 or 3 words, or short phrases, which particularly seem to emphasise your points.

[6 marks]

2. Look again at lines 8 - 9 : *"once an eerie wail like a baby's crying woke the old dog and brought him shivering and whining to his feet"*. Why do you think the writer describes the noises of the night in this way?

[4 marks]

3. Why do you think the writer describes the cat as "*another small night hunter*" at line 12

[3 marks]

4. Using your own words, how would you describe the character of the young dog?

[4 marks]

PLEASE WRITE YOUR ANSWER TO SECTION B ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

SECTION B

Spend approximately 25 minutes on Section B

Write a creative story based on any **ONE** of the three titles below:

1. The Storm

2. The First Day

3. The Unfamiliar Sound

[15 marks]