OUNDLE
School

2015 Junior Entrance Examination

English

Time allowed: **1 hour**

Instructions

- *Please write your name at the top of each piece of paper you use*
- *Answer as many questions as you can*
- *There are two 30 minute Sections: Section A and Section B*
- *Answer in full sentences unless asked to do otherwise*
- *Accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be evaluated although there is not a specific mark allocation for these elements*
- *While accuracy is desirable throughout the paper, it will be particularly noted in Section B*
- *Remember to leave yourself enough time to check your work*
- *Dictionaries are not allowed*

Good Luck

Section A 30 Minutes

Read the passage and answer the questions which follow.

Now a strange, new dread was seizing me as I went slowly up Watling Street, for I knew my Dublin like the back of my hand : the dread increased now with every step, for deep within me an instinct warned me – that I was walking into a trap. There was no basis[1] for this fear, yet it was enhanced by the very silence of the sleeping city, by the very fullness of the moon in this criss-cross, baying moonbeam of a night. And then, quite suddenly, the sky was blanketed : blackness, a pitch darkness fell over the streets. I stopped, in utter loneliness and spine-chilling fear, and listened.

I heard, in a little sigh of the wind, the bass whisper of a man.

I looked up. Black clouds were rushing over the moon, and in that lonely darkness I backed away to a wall, my hands outspread, my heart pounding. For the first time in my life I knew real and absolute fear : the chilling numbness that freezes the muscles, forbidding movement.

Yet somehow, in this obliterating blackness, I had to find Thomas Street. And then, from the direction of the stables behind Watling Street, came the iron-tipped rasp of a boot : faint whispering, I heard, and sighing. I stiffened, flattening my body into the shadows of the wall, and a hand rasped the brickwork within a yard of me, like the hand of a blind man scours[2] as he feels his way.

Close to me in this merciless blackness of night, a man was breathing.

Behind me ; behind the very wall against which I was flattened, I heard the dull tread of measured steps, and the creak of a door. And I knew that although these enemies were invisible to me, they were slowly, inexorably surrounding me, drawing a net about me from which there was no escape.

It was the fear of the unknown that was numbing my senses. Had they been a score of men, in daylight, I could have made a fight of it. But now I shrank from the evil like a man condemned[3].

I sensed, rather than saw the man standing directly before me. And even as I clenched my good hand for the attack, a match was struck, lighting his face. Momentarily, the darkness was banished : I saw that face in redness and shadow and stared into it with a new and nameless fear.

Bracing myself against the wall, I hooked hard. The face drifted away, then sank under the blow.

"Take him," came a whisper.

And they rushed from all sides, feeling for me, clubbing me to my knees. In a clatter of boots they came, their fists thudding into me ; pulling me down, they pinned me there. Six men held me ; it was impossible to move.

From *The White Cockade* by Alexander Cordell

---

[1] Basis: foundation or reason

[2] Scours: rubs

[3] Condemned: sentenced to death

Section A Questions

1) Explain, with reference to the first paragraph (lines1-8), why the speaker is afraid. (2 marks)

2) Explain what you understand by:
"There was no basis for this fear, yet is was enhanced by the very silence of the sleeping city, by the very fullness of the moon in this criss-cross, baying moonbeam of a night." (lines 4-6) (4 marks)

3) In lines 9-13, what details show that the speaker is afraid? (3 marks)

4) Explain each of the following phrases in your own words:
A) chilling numbness (line 12)
B) obliterating blackness (line 14)
C) iron tipped rasp of a boot (line 16)
D) merciless blackness (line 20) (8 marks)

5) Using lines 9-24, LIST IN ORDER everything the speaker heard as he stood in hiding. (4 marks - ½ mark per point)

6) Why were his enemies invisible? (1 mark)

7) Explain in your own words what you understand by:
"…they were slowly, inexorably surrounding me, drawing a net about me from which there was no escape." Lines 23-24 (2 marks)

8) What in the passage suggests that, normally, the speaker was a brave young man? (2 marks)

9) How is the speaker able to see one of the attackers in the darkness? (1 mark)

10) Describe, in your own words, what happens from "I sensed, rather than saw…" Line 28 to the end of the passage "…it was impossible to move." Line 37. (3 marks)

Total : 30 Marks

Please turn over for Section B

Section B : Creative Response 30 minutes

Choose **ONE** of the following options.
You should leave 5 minutes to check your work through at the end.

EITHER 1) Continue the story

OR 2) Write your own story entitled "On the Run".

OR 3) Describe the man glimpsed so briefly by the speaker in the extract in Section A. Use your imagination!