SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 7 (11+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

SAMPLE PAPER

ENGLISH

Your Name: ……..

Your School: …….

Time allowed: 10 minutes reading time, then 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Equipment needed: Pen and lined paper.

Information for candidates:

1. Write your name and school on this page.
2. You may make notes on this exam paper during the 10 minutes of reading time (you will be told when this begins), but you must not start writing your answers until you are told to do so.
3. 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.
4. You should write in full sentences and pay attention to both spelling and punctuation.
5. The marks available for each question are shown in square brackets [ ] after the question.

SECTION A

Read both the following passages. You have 10 minutes reading time, during which you may write on this paper. You must answer all the questions in this section. You are advised to spend 45 minutes on this section, as well as the 10 minutes reading time. Remember that you should write as full answers as you can.

Now read this passage and answer the questions below.

The wide playgrounds were swarming with boys. All were shouting and the prefects urged them on with strong cries. The evening air was pale and chilly and after every charge and thud of the footballers the greasy leather ball flew like a heavy bird through the grey light. He kept on the fringe of his line, out of sight of his prefect, out of the reach of the rude feet, pretending to run now and then. He felt his body small and weak amid the throng of the players and his eyes were weak and watery. Rody Kickham was not like that: he would be captain of the third line all the fellows said.

Rody Kickham was a decent fellow but Nasty Roche was a stink. Nasty Roche had big hands. And one day he had asked:

—What is your name?

Stephen had answered: Stephen Dedalus.

Then Nasty Roche had said:

—What kind of a name is that?

From 'A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man' by James Joyce

1. **How does the author describe the playground in the first paragraph? You might like to think about its atmosphere and what sort of a place it is. You should use examples from the passage to support your ideas and explain what your examples show. [6 marks]**

2. **How is Stephen Dedalus described? How do you think he is different from Nasty Roche? You should use examples from the passage to support your ideas and explain what your examples show. [6 marks]**

Read this passage and then answer the questions below.

The sun was setting and our slide looked like a thin red mirror across the playground. My knees were bleeding from a couple of falls on the fast ice and the air was so cold that I could feel the blood freezing on my skin. I was standing in line for my go when I happened to look across at the horse chestnut tree. It was black against the fiery sky and a wisp of cloud was passing across the top branches so that the tree looked like a factory steaming in the brittle air.

My heart was throbbing fast and suddenly the ground seemed to be throbbing, too. It was as if I could feel all the energy in the earth. It was waiting there, building up for spring, when it would pulse up through the trunk of the tree and along the branches to produce thousands of leaves.

From 'Time Bomb' by Nigel Hinton

Questions

3. **How does the writer describe the playground? You might want to think about its atmosphere and how the storyteller is feeling. You should use examples from the passage to support your ideas and explain what your examples show. [6 marks]**

4. **The writer uses some vivid images (word pictures). Choose two vivid images or word pictures from the passage and write about the picture each one creates in your mind. [6 marks]**

Turn over for **Section B.**

SECTION B

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on this section.

1. Describe a playground, real or imaginary. Try to describe it in as much detail as you can. **[24 marks]**

END OF PAPER