SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 7 (11+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
January 2013
for entry in September 2013

ENGLISH

Name: ……

School: …… .

Time allowed: 10 minutes reading time, then 1 hour 5 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 indicated in square brackets [ ] after the question.
6. Dictionaries are NOT allowed.

SECTION A

Read through the following passage from *The Cat* by Ian McEwan carefully, and answer all the questions below.

There are 20 marks for Section A.

It was the oddest thing to climb out of your body, just step out of it and leave it sitting on the carpet like a shirt you had just taken off. And then Peter suddenly knew what he wanted to do, what he had to do. He floated towards William the Cat and hovered. The body stood open, like a door, and it looked so inviting, so welcoming. He dropped down and stepped inside. How fine it was to dress yourself as a cat. It was not squelchy, as he thought all insides must be. It was dry and warm. He lay on his back and slipped his arms into William's front legs. Then he wriggled his legs into William's back legs. His head fitted perfectly inside the cat's head. Using his paws, Peter was able to zip himself up easily. He stood, and took a few steps. What a delight to walk on four soft white paws. He could see his whiskers springing out from the sides of his face, and he felt his tail curling behind him. His tread was light, and his fur was like the most comfortable of old woollen jumpers. As his pleasure in being a cat grew, a tingling action deep in his throat became so strong that he could hear himself, Peter was purring. He was Peter Cat.

<u>QUESTIONS</u>

1. Name three things that Peter does to become a cat. [3 marks]

2. What does Peter think about becoming a cat? You should pick out three details and explain what you think they show about Peter's thoughts and feelings? [6 marks]

Read through the following passage from *The Baby* by Ian McEwan carefully, and answer all the questions below.

Minutes later he was sitting in a bath the size of a small swimming pool, wavelets of warm water lapping round his chest. He knew he should be talking to his aunt, but for the moment he was more interested in smacking the surface of the water with his open palms. How intricate and unique each splash was, with droplets separating out as they rose in the air, and tumbling back to make patterns and ripples. It was wonderful, so hilarious.

"Wow look at this," he found himself shouting. "Ee ink aark!"

He was so excited that his arms and legs shot out straight and he tumbled backwards. Aunt Laura caught him gently with a cupped palm behind his head.

Shocked to his senses Peter remembered that he had to let her know who he was. "Awaba…" he started to say, but suddenly he shot upwards out of the water, like a missile from a submarine, and landed in a white towel as large as the back garden.

He was dried, powdered, wrapped up in a nappy, buttoned into pyjamas, carried into the bedroom. Aunt Laura sang him a lilting, interesting song about a black sheep who was holding back on certain bags of wool for people he knew.
"Encore! he shouted."Unga!"

QUESTIONS

3. What does this passage tell you about what it is like to be a baby? You should use examples from the passage to support your ideas and explain what your examples show. [7 marks]

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

[PTO]

SECTION B

Spend 30 minutes on this part. There are 20 marks for Section B. Choose ONE of the titles below.

EITHER

a. Continue the passage from "The Cat".

OR

b. Write about a character who undergoes a change or transformation.

OR

c. Write about an experience that was important to you.

[20 marks]