SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 7 (11+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
January 2015
for entry in September 2015

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 to Section A and Section B on **separate** pieces of paper. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use. Answer both Section A (the **2** passages of writing) and Section B (the creative writing).
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 carefully and answer all the questions below.

The sea, the sea, the sea. It thunders and rolls and unsettles me; it unsettles all of us.

We tremble as we listen to the waves pounding. When I close my eyes, all I see is that huge white wave, and all I hear is the low rumbling that grows louder and louder as the wave breaks. We are all afraid to sleep, all afraid that The Wave will return.

When we do lie down, we jolt out of bed at the slightest rumble of a new wave. I keep running through the scene in my head, over and over, from all different angles. It was like being born: I was in my rolling little world until a huge surge of water broke on me, scrunching me into a tight, round bundle and pushing me through a small space and then I was helpless and wet on my back , attached only by a small red line until a big hand pulled me away. I couldn't talk, only whimper and moan.

The hatch is secured, most of the water pumped out from below. Cody is up and at it again, but now Uncle Mo has succumbed to seasickness and so he and Uncle Stew are awfully miserable. Brian's arm is badly sprained, and Uncle Dock wrenched his back. We're a sad-looking group.

My right leg is still throbbing and hurts all around my knee and down the back of my thigh. My other leg is fine except for a sprained and sore ankle. But besides that and a big bump on the back of my head, I am in one piece physically.

Inside, though, I am in many pieces. I feel strange and raw and all jumbled up. Sometimes I feel as if one little roll of the boat or one quick movement will shatter me into a zillion pieces and all those pieces will go flinging off into the sea.

From *The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech

QUESTIONS

1a. Why does the writer say that the huge waves that had previously nearly flooded the boat were "like being born"? (line 7) [4 marks]

1b. What effect does this have on our understanding of the passage? [2 marks]

2. How does the writer show that she is afraid? Pick out three details from the passage and explain how they support your ideas. [6 marks]

SECTION A continued

Read through the following passage carefully and answer all the questions below.

Now and again, when we were out in the open water beyond the chain of islands, the sea became very rough, and that was when my mother enjoyed herself most. Nobody, not even the tiny children, bothered with lifebelts in those days. We would cling to the sides of our funny little white motor-boat, driving through mountainous white-capped waves and getting drenched to the skin, while my mother calmly handled the tiller. There were times, I promise you, when the waves were so high that as we slid down into a trough the whole world disappeared from sight. Then up and up the little boat would climb, standing almost vertically on its tail, until we reached the crest of the next wave, and then it was like being on top of a foaming mountain. It requires great skill to handle a small boat in seas like these. The thing can easily capsize or be swamped if the bows do not meet the great combing breakers at just the right angle. But my mother knew exactly how to do it, and we were never afraid. We loved every minute of it, all of us except for our long-suffering Nanny, who would bury her face in her hands and call aloud upon the Lord to save her soul.

From *Boy* by Roald Dahl

1. What impression does Roald Dahl give of his mother's character from this passage? [3 marks]

2. Pick examples which demonstrate the roughness of the sea and explain what effect these descriptions have. [5 marks]

[Total: 20 marks]

SECTION B

Spend 30 minutes on this part. Choose **ONE** of the titles below.

EITHER:

a) Write a continuation of one of the passages.

OR:

b) Write about a time when the weather conditions have severely affected your day. This could be true or entirely imaginary.

OR:

c) Write about a time when you have had an exciting or dramatic experience for the first time.

[Total: 20 marks]