OUNDLE

School

2016 Academic Scholarship

Preliminary Examination

English

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- **Dictionaries are not allowed**
- Answer on lined paper. Clearly mark your name at the top of each sheet of paper you use.
- Answer ALL the questions in Section A. Choose ONE question from Section B. You should divide your time equally between both sections.
- You are expected to write clearly and accurately in your answers. You should leave some time towards the end of the examination to check your work carefully.

- The maximum number of marks for this paper is 50

Section A: Comprehension

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

The following poem is by the poet Ted Hughes (1930-98). Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Wind

This house has been far out at sea all night,
The woods crashing through darkness, the booming hills,
Winds stampeding the fields under the window
Floundering black astride and blinding wet

Till day rose; then under an orange sky
The hills had new places, and wind wielded
Blade-light luminous black and emerald,
Flexing like the lens of a mad eye.

At noon I scaled along the house-side as far as
The coal-house door. Once I looked up –
Through the brunt wind that dented the balls of my eyes
The tent of the hills drummed and strained its guyrope,

The fields quivering, the skyline a grimace,
At any second to bang and vanish with a flap:
The wind flung a magpie away and a black-
Back gull bent like an iron bar slowly. The house

Rang like some fine green goblet in the note
That any second would shatter it. Now deep
In chairs, in front of the great fire, we grip
Our hearts and cannot entertain book, thought,

Or each other. We watch the fire blazing,
And feel the roots of the house move, but sit on,
Seeing the window tremble to come in,
Hearing the stones cry out under the horizons.

1. How literally should we read the first line of the poem? What is the poet suggesting here?

(2 marks)

2. Look carefully at the verbs 'crashing' and 'stampeding' in the first stanza. Why do you think Hughes chose these particular words to describe the wind and what effects are created by them?

(4 marks)

3. What do you think is meant by the lines 'wind wielded / Blade-light black and emerald' (lines 6-7)?

(3 marks)

4. Describe some of the ways in which Hughes presents the weather as dangerous or threatening.

(5 marks)

5. What do you think is meant by the lines 'The house / Rang like some fine green goblet in the note / That any second would shatter it' (lines 16-18)?

(3 marks)

6. What is your opinion of this poem? Support your answer with quotations from the text. In your answer you might like to comment on:
    - the effectiveness of comparisons, such as metaphors and similes
    - the sound of the words in the poem and the way they are grouped together
    - the form and structure of the poem.

(8 marks)

(Total: 25 marks)

TURN OVER

Section B: Composition

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

The following are all opening sentences from a selection of different novels. Write a story or a piece of descriptive writing using ONE of these sentences as your opening sentence. Make your writing interesting and original.

You are reminded of the importance of clear and accurate written English and of careful presentation in your answer. All questions carry equal marks.

1. 'I stand at the window of this great house in the south of France as night falls, the night which is leading me to the most terrible morning of my life.'

(25 marks)

OR

2. 'Robin Davies crossed the landing and went into the bathroom, where his father, a stocky dark man in his early fifties, stood at the washbasin shaving.'

(25 marks)

OR

3. 'They started two hours before daylight, and at first, it was not necessary to break the ice across the canal as other boats had gone on ahead.'

(25 marks)

OR

4. 'The snow in the mountains was melting and Bunny had been dead for several weeks before we came to understand the gravity of our situation.'

(25 marks)

OR

5. 'He was an inch, perhaps two, under six feet, powerfully built, and he advanced straight at you with a slight stoop of the shoulders, head forward, and a fixed from-under stare which made you think of a charging bull.'

(25 marks)