OUNDLE
School

Academic Scholarship 2017

Preliminary Examination

English

Time allowed: One 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 First World War poet Wilfred Owen (1893-1918). Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The Send-Off

Down the close darkening lanes they sang their way
To the siding-shed,
And lined the train with faces grimly gay.

Their breasts were stuck all white with wreath and spray
As men's are, dead.

Dull porters watched them, and a casual tramp
Stood staring hard,
Sorry to miss them from the upland camp.

Then, unmoved, signals nodded, and a lamp
Winked to the guard.

So secretly, like wrongs hushed-up, they went.
They were not ours:
We never heard to which front these were sent;

Nor there if they yet mock what women meant
Who gave them flowers.

Shall they return to beatings of great bells
In wild train-loads?
A few, a few, too few for drums and yells,

May creep back, silent, to village wells,
Up half-known roads.

1. Sum up what this poem is about in just one sentence.

(1 mark)

2. Look again at lines 4-5. What do these lines mean and how effectively do you think they make their point?

(4 marks)

3. Find an example of an oxymoron in the poem and explain its meaning.

(2 marks)

4. Look again at lines 11-13. What do these lines suggest about the speaker's attitude to the war?

(4 marks)

5. What do you think the last two lines of the poem suggest about the impact of war on the soldiers who return home?

(4 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.

(10 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. The cold passed reluctantly from the earth, and the retiring fogs revealed an army stretched out on the hills, resting.

(25 marks)

OR

2. Mr Verloc, going out in the morning, left his shop nominally in charge of his brother-in-law.

(25 marks)

OR

3. It was really summer, but the rain had fallen all day and was still falling.

(25 marks)

OR

4. Justice? – You get justice in the next world, in this world you have the law.

(25 marks)

OR

5. When I was nine, I hid under the table and heard my sister kill a king.

(25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS