OUNDLE
School

2018 Academic Scholarship

Preliminary Examination

English

Time allowed: 60 minutes

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. You should use quotations from the poem in your answers, where appropriate, to support the points you make.

Roe-Deer

In the dawn-dirty light, in the biggest snow of the year
Two blue-dark deer stood in the road, alerted.

They had happened into my dimension
The moment I was arriving just there.

They planted their two or three years of secret deerhood
Clear on my snow-screen vision of the abnormal

And hesitated in the all-way disintegration
And stared at me. And for some lasting seconds

I could think the deer were waiting for me
To remember the password and sign

That the curtain had blown aside for a moment
And there where the trees were no longer trees, nor the road a road

The deer had come for me.

Then they ducked through the hedge, and upright they rode their legs
Away downhill over a snow-lonely field

Towards tree dark – finally
Seeming to eddy and glide and fly away up

Into the boil of big flakes.
The snow took them and soon their nearby hoofprints as well

Revising its dawn inspiration
Back to the ordinary.

1. Using your own words, explain what happens in the poem.

(3 marks)

2. Look again at lines 3-4. What do these lines mean and how effectively do you think they convey their idea?

(4 marks)

4. Look again at lines 14-18. What do these lines suggest about the movement of the deer?

(4 marks)

5. What do you consider the theme of this poem to be?

(4 marks)

6. What is your opinion of this poem? 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. There was no possibility of taking a walk that day.

(25 marks)

OR

2. Once upon a time, in a far-off land, I was kidnapped by a gang of fearless yet terrified young men with so much impossible hope beating inside their bodies it burned their very skin and strengthened their will right through their bones.

(25 marks)

OR

3. In my earliest memory, my grandfather is bald as a stone and he takes me to see the tigers.

(25 marks)

OR

4. The cage was finished.

(25 marks)

OR

5. I lost an arm on my last trip home.

(25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS