JOHN LYON
HARROW-ON-THE-HILL

13+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION ENGLISH

13+ ENGLISH SAMPLE PAPER

Time allowed: 1½ hours

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer both parts of the paper **(Section A & Section B)** and spend equal time on each.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- Section A =20 marks The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets:
  Use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question
- Section B = 20 marks

Advice

- Please write your name and school clearly on **every** sheet of paper that you write on.
- You should leave approximately **5 minutes** at the end of each section to check through your answers for correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Candidate Name _____

Candidate Current School_____

SECTION A

Text: Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy.

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. They will test your understanding of the passage and your ability to use context to establish meaning. You will also be asked to write a short piece in which you discuss the techniques used by the writer. You should try to quote and explain your answer.

A Saturday afternoon in November was approaching the time of twilight, and the vast tract of unenclosed wild known as Egdon Heath embrowned itself moment by moment. Overhead the hollow stretch of whitish cloud shutting out the sky was as a tent which had the whole heath for its floor.

The heaven being spread with this pallid screen and the earth with the darkest vegetation, their meeting-line at the horizon was clearly marked. In such contrast the heath wore the appearance of an instalment of night which had taken up its place before its astronomical hour was come: darkness had to a great extent arrived hereon, while day stood distinct in the sky. Looking upwards, a furze-cutter would have been inclined to continue work; looking down, he would have decided to finish his faggot and go home. The distant rims of the world and of the firmament seemed to be a division in time no less than a division in matter. The face of the heath by its mere complexion added half an hour to evening; it could in like manner retard the dawn, sadden noon, anticipate the frowning of storms scarcely generated, and intensify the opacity of a moonless midnight to a cause of shaking and dread.

…The place became full of a watchful intentness now; for when other things sank blooding to sleep the heath appeared slowly to awake and listen. Every night its Titanic form seemed to await something; but it had waited thus, unmoved, during so many centuries, through the crises of so many things, that it could only be imagined to await one last crisis—the final overthrow.

…The most thoroughgoing ascetic could feel that he had a natural right to wander on Egdon—he was keeping within the line of legitimate indulgence when he laid himself open to influences such as these. Colours and beauties so far subdued were, at least, the birthright of all. Only in summer days of highest feather did its mood touch the level of gaiety. Intensity was more usually reached by way of the solemn than by way of the brilliant, and such a sort of intensity was often arrived at during winter darkness, tempests, and mists. Then Egdon was aroused to reciprocity; for the storm was its lover, and the wind its friend. Then it became the home of strange phantoms; and it was found to be the hitherto unrecognized original of those wild regions of obscurity which are vaguely felt to be compassing us about in midnight dreams of flight and disaster, and are never thought of after the dream till revived by scenes like this.

It was at present a place perfectly accordant with man's nature—neither ghastly, hateful, nor ugly; neither commonplace, unmeaning, nor tame; but, like man, slighted and enduring; and withal singularly colossal and mysterious in its swarthy monotony. As with some persons who have long lived apart, solitude seemed to look out of its countenance. It had a lonely face, suggesting tragical possibilities.

Glossary:

Pallid: pale

Faggot: a bundle of sticks or other vegetation

Ascetic: a person with incredible self-discipline and the ability to deprive herself

Reciprocity: behaviour in which two people or groups of people give each other help and advantages.

1. At what time of day is the passage set? (1 mark)

2. Explain the Tent simile in lines 3&4 (3 marks)

3. What do you think a "furze cutter" is? (1 mark)

4. What literary device is being used in the sentence:

   "The face of the heath, by its mere complexion…"?
   (1 mark)

5. What is meant by "Titanic form"? (2 marks)

6. Rewrite paragraph 3 in your own words to convey the same information about the character of the Heath.
   (5 marks)

7. Explain the phrase: "of highest feather". (1 mark)

Personification is used throughout the passage. How does Hardy use this technique to describe the Heath? Refer to the text in your response and try to suggest why any devices mentioned are effective.

(6 marks)

Marks for Section A: 20

END OF SECTION A

SECTION B

CREATIVE WRITING:

Choose **one** of the questions below and write in response to it:

1. You have just attended a lecture on "respect". Write an article in which you explain your feelings about this concept.

2. You have just read the best book of your life. Write a review of the book for a school newspaper.

3. You are standing on the edge of a sheer cliff. Describe your feelings at this moment.

Marks for section B: 20

END OF SECTION B

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