RADLEY

Scholarship Examination

ENGLISH

March 2016

Time allowed – 2 hours

There are two extracts and four questions.

Questions 1 and 2 are worth 10 marks each.

Questions 3 and 4 are worth 30 marks each.

Answer all four questions.

You should leave between 5 and 10 minutes at the end for checking your work carefully.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar throughout the paper are worth 20 marks.

You are expected to be able to write accurate, grammatical, well-punctuated prose throughout this paper.

This is an extract from Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre*, published in 1848. Jane Eyre, the narrator, has for some years been a teacher at Lowood School, where she was also a girl. Her colleague and mentor, Miss Temple, has just left to get married, and this has prompted Jane to reflect upon her situation.

I walked about the chamber most of the time. I imagined myself only to be regretting my loss, and thinking how to repair it; but when my reflections were concluded, and I looked up and found that the afternoon was gone, and evening far advanced, another discovery dawned on me, namely, that in the interval I had undergone a transforming process; that my mind had put off all it had borrowed of Miss Temple — or rather that she had taken with her the serene atmosphere I had been breathing in her vicinity — and that now I was left in my natural element, and beginning to feel the stirring of old emotions. It did not seem as if a prop were withdrawn, but rather as if a motive were gone: it was not the power to be tranquil which had failed me, but the reason for tranquillity was no more. My world had for some years been in Lowood: my experience had been of its rules and systems; now I remembered that the real world was wide, and that a varied field of hopes and fears, of sensations and excitements, awaited those who had courage to go forth into its expanse, to seek real knowledge of life amidst its perils.

I went to my window, opened it, and looked out. There were the two wings of the building; there was the garden; there were the skirts of Lowood; there was the hilly horizon. My eye passed all other objects to rest on those most remote, the blue peaks; it was those I longed to surmount; all within their boundary of rock and heath seemed prison-ground, exile limits. I traced the white road winding round the base of one mountain, and vanishing in a gorge between two; how I longed to follow it farther! I recalled the time when I had travelled that very road in a coach; I remembered descending that hill at twilight; an age seemed to have elapsed since the day which brought me first to Lowood, and I had never quitted it since. My vacations had all been spent at school: Mrs. Reed had never sent for me to Gateshead; neither she nor any of her family had ever been to visit me. I had had no communication by letter or message with the outer world: school-rules, school-duties, school-habits and notions, and voices, and faces, and phrases, and costumes, and preferences, and antipathies — such was what I knew of existence. And now I felt that it was not enough; I tired of the routine of eight years in one afternoon. I desired liberty; for liberty I gasped; for liberty I uttered a prayer; it seemed scattered on the wind then faintly blowing. I abandoned it and framed a humbler supplication; for change, stimulus: that petition, too, seemed swept off into vague space: "Then," I cried, half desperate, "grant me at least a new servitude!"

Here a bell, ringing the hour of supper, called me downstairs.

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1. Write a list of all the things that Bronte's character dislikes about her present situation. [10]

A Song: *Men of England*, by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1819)

Men of England, wherefore plough
For the lords who lay ye low?
Wherefore weave with toil and care
The rich robes your tyrants wear?

Wherefore feed and clothe and save
From the cradle to the grave
Those ungrateful drones who would
Drain your sweat — nay, drink your blood?

Wherefore, Bees of England, forge
Many a weapon, chain, and scourge,
That these stingless drones may spoil
The forced produce of your toil?

Have ye leisure, comfort, calm,
Shelter, food, love's gentle balm?
Or what is it ye buy so dear
With your pain and with your fear?

The seed ye sow, another reaps;
The wealth ye find, another keeps;
The robes ye weave, another wears;
The arms ye forge, another bears.

Sow seed — but let no tyrant reap:
Find wealth — let no imposter heap:
Weave robes — let not the idle wear:
Forge arms — in your defence to bear.

Shrink to your cellars, holes, and cells —
In hall ye deck another dwells.
Why shake the chains ye wrought? Ye see
The steel ye tempered glance on ye.

With plough and spade and hoe and loom
Trace your grave and build your tomb
And weave your winding-sheet — till fair
England be your Sepulchre.

2. Write a list of all the things which Shelley objects to about the lives and work that the Men of England have to endure. [10]

3. Both *Jane Eyre* and Men of England express feelings of frustration at the restrictions imposed by society, and a powerful desire for liberty. Compare the ways in which Bronte and Shelley use language to explore these feelings. [30]

4. EITHER

Write an essay in which you discuss your own ideas about liberty;

OR

Write a short story which begins with the line: 'I desired liberty'.

[30]

Spelling, punctuation and grammar throughout the paper: [20]

TOTAL [100]

END OF PAPER