RADLEY COLLEGE

13+ Entrance Scholarships

ENGLISH

Time allowed – 2 hours

Answer all the questions. Write in full sentences throughout.

There are 30 marks available for the Comprehension, and 40 marks available for the Composition tasks (20 for each question).

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

Please use 3 lined sheets for answers:-

One sheet for Comprehension

One sheet for Composition (a)

One sheet for Composition (b)

JOHN DONNE

From: Holy Sonnets

Death be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadfull, for, thou art not soe,
For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poore death, nor yet canst thou kill mee;
From rest and sleepe, which but thy pictures bee,
Much pleasure, then from thee, much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee doe goe,
Rest of their bones, and soules deliverie.
Thou art slave to Fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poyson, warre, and sicknesse dwell,
And poppie, or charmes can make us sleepe as well,
And better than thy stroake; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleepe past, wee wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.

VERNON SCANNELL

Another View of Thanatos

Death be not proud! Why not? You've got good cause.
Mighty and dreadful? Yes, we're bound to call
You both of these since you have fathered all
Our best achievements, art and healing, laws,
Rituals to ease the pain that gnaws
On hearts and minds till desperations scrawl
Their shrill graffiti on the falling wall:
You justly claim respect, if not applause.

But few of us will tender thanks though you
Persuade us to erect great domes of thought
And palisades of piety to thwart
Your fruitful menaces. Yet this is true:
You frighten me to death, old sport;
If I had half your power, then I'd swank too.

Radley College English Scholarship 2017

Comprehension:

1) What do you think Donne means by 'Thou art slave to fate?' in line 9? (2)

2) What are the 'palisades of piety' in line 11 of Scannell's poem? (2)

3) Choose two interesting or vivid examples of language **from each poem** and explain what makes them so effective. (6)

4) Compare the ways in which the two poets explore attitudes towards death.

Comment on form, language and ideas. (20)

Composition:

(a) Compose a piece of prose writing which directly addresses **one** of the following:

Famine	Discrimination	Hunger
Love	Regret	Fear

You will be rewarded for the clarity and creativity of your work as well as for accurate punctuation, grammar and spelling.

(20)

AND

(b) 'Better to light a candle than curse the darkness.' Peter Benenson, Founder of Amnesty International

Compose a short essay in response to this quotation, drawing on your understanding of the world today.

You will be rewarded for the clarity and interest of your work as well as for accurate punctuation, grammar and spelling.

(20)