# ST GEORGE'S COLLEGE

## 13+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
## SCHOLARSHIP Paper

## ENGLISH

**Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes**

**There are two sections to the paper.**

**You should spend 5 minutes reading the paper, and then spend 40 minutes on Section A and 40 minutes on Section B. Remember to leave 5 minutes at the end to check your work.**

**When you write your answers, you should pay attention to:**

- **Spelling**
- **Punctuation**
- **Paragraphing**
- **Vocabulary**
- **Handwriting**

# Section A

An extract from *Shore Leave* by Catherine Greenford.

It was hot. Oppressively hot. The morning's blue sky had hardened, solidified to a low, leaden purple, looking bruised and threatening. In an assortment of deck chairs and loungers the grown ups sat or reclined. The Sunday newspapers had slipped from their hands as the heat and
4 the after effects of a delicious lunch nudged them towards repose and silence.

Michael edged his way through the patio doors and along to the kitchen. I will never be like them, he thought to himself. Life was full of promise and excitement and he wasn't prepared to waste a minute of it. Much as he loved his parents, grandmother, aunt and uncle he could not
8 help but feel a little sorry for them and slightly **scornful** of their lack of adventure. What were summer holidays for if not for excitement and exploration?

Pausing only to gulp down a glass of his mother's home-made lemonade, a delicious blend of sharpness and sweetness, Michael grabbed his rucksack and headed for the back door. Here a
12 **parched l**awn led to shrubs all but concealing a dusty path that stretched through the fields beyond, then headed down to the shore, becoming sandier as it went.

Michael whistled to his imaginary dog, clambered over a stile and set off on the trail to freedom. The heat which had so defeated the adults made Michael feel exhilarated and
16 powerful. Running the last quarter of a mile took him flying onto the shore where patches of sand were **interspersed** with pebbles and rocks. Here there was still a breeze from the sea, salty and seaweedy, with the same smell as the cluster of rock pools formed by the incoming tide.

20 As he had hoped, Kate was picking her way over rocks, peering at the magical assortment of weeds and marine life trapped in every pool. Kate was a little younger than him, agile, curious and fun. Her brown legs and arms were covered with scratches and scabs; her hair was tangled and tousled by the sea fret and her dark blue eyes were narrowed as she coaxed a tiny crab
24 from its rocky shelter. Michael only ever met her in the holidays and she helped make these two weeks every August unforgettable. For a start, she had a real dog! He was a mongrel with a joyous temperament, fond of mischief and adventure, much like the two children.

"Biscuit!" Michael called and to his delight the dog raced towards him then collapsed at his
28 feet, his tail madly wagging.

"You could say hello to me as well," Kate protested. "I've been waiting for you for ages."

"Well I'm here now. Are we going to chance it?"

"The tide's still on the turn but hasn't reached the cave yet so we should be able to get through,
32 retrieve the chest and paddle or wade out before high tide."

Inland, the first rumble of thunder could be heard.

## *Soap Suds* by Louis MacNeice

This brand of soap has the same smell as once in the big
House he visited when he was eight; the walls of the bathroom open
To reveal a lawn where a great yellow ball rolls back through a hoop
To rest at the head of a mallet held in the hands of a child.

And these were the joys of that house: a tower with a telescope;
Two great faded globes, one of the earth, one of the stars;
A stuffed black dog in the hall; a walled garden with bees;
A rabbit warren; a rockery; a vine under the glass; the sea.

To which he now returned. The day of course is fine
And a grown-up voice cries Play! The mallet slowly swings,
Then crack, a great gong booms from the dog-dark hall and the ball
Skims forward through the hoop and then through the next and then

Through hoops where no hoops were and each dissolves in turn
And the grass has grown head-high and an angry voice cries Play!
But the ball is lost and the mallet slipped long since from the hands
Under the running tap that are not the hands of a child.

**Both the passage and poem reflect on childhood and children's views of the world. Answer the following questions in your own words. You may use quotations from the text to help you.**

**Shore Leave**

1. Explain clearly what the following words mean: scornful (line 9); parched (line 15); interspersed (line 18) (3 marks)
2. "I will never be like them, he thought to himself." (line 6-7)
   Explain what you think Michael means by this.
   Do you think he is correct? (5 marks)
3. In your own words describe what Kate is doing when Michael first sees her. (2 marks)
4. The passage begins and ends with descriptions of the weather.
   Why do you think the writer has done this ?
   What effect does it have on your reading of the passage? (4 marks)

**Soap Suds**

5. What causes the person in the poem to remember the big house? (1 mark)
6. Name two of the "joys of the house" and in your own words explain why they might delight a child. (2 marks)
7. The poem starts with a happy memory but the mood seems to change from line 10 onwards. In your own words explain what you think the poet is trying to convey in the last 6 lines of the poem. (4 marks)
8. Choose two incidents or details from the passage and two from the poem and compare how the writers describe them. (4 marks)

Total: 25 marks

**Please turn over**

## Section B

**In this section you will be assessed on the quality of your writing , including spelling, punctuation and grammar, so allow yourself a few minutes at the end to check your work.**

**EITHER:**

1. Write a letter to a favourite aunt describing how you have spent a memorable day during the summer holidays.

(25 marks)

**OR:**

2. Write an article for a school magazine in which you present an argument as to whether schooldays are indeed the best days of your life. You must argue both sides of the question but you may, if you wish, agree or disagree in your conclusion.

(25 marks)