SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

SAMPLE PAPER

ENGLISH

Your Name: ……..

Your School: …….

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Equipment needed: Pen, pencil, lined paper, eraser.

Information for candidates:

1. Write your name and school on this page.
2. Write your answers on the **separate paper** provided. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use.
3. There are 5 questions in this paper. You should attempt all of them.
4. The paper will be marked out of 50. The marks for each question or part question are indicated in square brackets [ ].
5. There are two passages overleaf. Read them both and answer the questions on the final page.

FROM: THE RAILWAY MAN by ERIC LOMAX

It was like love, my fascination for these huge, noisy machines that were already near the end of their golden age. They moved with such magnificent purpose. They were alive, they had steam, smoke and the smell of minerals; they burned energy without concealment, and you could see their fire. They raced against themselves, losing more heat than they used, running by burning their own cargo of coal; but there was something very human about the need to keep fire going by hand, shovelling and watching, never for a second being about to forget responsibility for the journey and the work. Their waste didn't have to be buried in lead-lined coffins, it was exhaled as carbon, sulphur and nitrogen, or swept and scattered as ash, the sunburnt particles of coal settling gently on our clothes and hair.

Some things that humans make transcend their function; instruments can be magical. That explosive, rhythmic sound we call puffing says more to us about getting under way, about departure, than a petrol-driven snarl can ever do; perhaps it has something close to the beat of our pulse. Even if we were using up and heating the earth too much, and no-one knew that at the time, it would have been worth making an exception for steam engines. They were beautiful machines, the most beautiful machines produced in the industrial revolution.

Like everything else we make – like firearms, for example – the simple idea could be endlessly refined, developed and decorated. I discovered trains in their heyday, when steam under pressure had achieved astonishing things. Libraries of books were written on the improvement of Watt's basic idea. More sophisticated valve gears gave more subtle control of pressure. But it was the way it worked together that mattered, in the poetry of great engines, their appearance, speed and mystique.

FROM: THE ODOUR OF CHRYSANTEMEMUMS by D.H LAWRENCE

The small locomotive engine, number 4, came clanking, stumbling down from Selston with seven full wagons. It appeared round the corner with loud threats of speed, but the colt that it startled from among the gorse, which still flickered indistinctly in the raw afternoon, outdistanced it as if at a canter. A woman, walking up the railway line to Underwood, drew back into the hedge held her basket aside, and watched the footplate of the engine advancing. The trucks thumped heavily past, one by one, with slow inevitable movement as she stood trapped between the jolting black wagons and the hedge; then they curved away towards the coppice where the withered oak leaves dropped noiselessly, while the birds, pulling at the scarlet hops beside the track, made off into the dusk that had already crept into the spinney. In the open, the smoke from the engine sank and cleaved to the rough grass. The fields were dreary and forsaken, and in the ashy strip that led to the whimsey, a pit-pond, the fowls had already abandoned their run among the alders, to roost in the tarred fowl-house. The pit bank loomed up beyond the pond, flames, lime red sores, licking its ashy sides in the afternoon's stagnant light. Just beyond rose the tapering chimneys and the clumsy black head-stocks of Brinsely Colliery. The two wheels were spinning fast up against the sky, and the winding–engine rapped out its little spasms. The miners were being turned up. The engine whistled as it came into the wide bay of railway lines beside the colliery, where rows of trucks stood in harbour.

Answer ALL of the following questions:

1. What impression does the author create of steam trains in the passage from *The Railway Man*? You should think about the words used to describe steam trains. [5]

2. How would you describe the relationship between man and machine in the passage from *The Railway Man*? [5]

3. What is the effect of machines on the natural world in the passage from *The Odour of Chrysanthemums*? [5]

4. Write a comparison between the two passages explaining which you prefer and why. [10]

5. Write about a town at night. You should think about the atmosphere and mood as well as what happens. You should aim to write about 200 words.

[25]

END OF PAPER