SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

October 2011
for entry in September 2012

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 following questions.

Passage 1

Nearly half a century has passed since I last stepped out of a train at this little wooden station, but my feet carry me with a kind of effortless, dreamlike inevitability down the sloping station approach to the quietly busy mid-afternoon main road, left towards the muddled little parade of shops, and left again by the letter box into the long, straight, familiar avenue. The main road's full of fussy new traffic arrangements, the shops have impersonal new commercial names and frontages, and the stringy prunus saplings I remember along the verges of the avenue are now wise and dignified trees. But when I turn the corner once again off the avenue into the Close…

There it is as it always was. The same old quiet, sweet, dull ordinariness.

I stand on the corner, looking at it, listening to it, breathing it in, not sure whether I'm moved to be here again after all this time, or whether I'm quite indifferent.

I walk slowly up to the little turning circle at the end. The same fourteen houses sit calmly complacent in the warm, dull summer afternoon, exactly as they always did. I walk slowly back to the corner again. It's all still here, exactly as it always was. I don't know why I should find this so surprising. I wasn't expecting anything different. And yet, after fifty years….

From *Spies*, by Michael Frayn

Passage 2

When the short days of winter came dusk fell before we had eaten our dinners. When we met in the street the houses had grown sombre. The space of sky about us was the colour of ever-changing violet and towards it the lamps of the street lifted their feeble lanterns. The cold air stung us and we played till our bodies glowed. Our shouts echoed in the silent street. The career of our play brought out through the dark muddy lanes behind the houses where we ran the gauntlet of the rough tribes from the cottages, to the back doors of the dark dripping gardens where odours arose from the ash-pits, to the dark odorous stables where a coachman smoothed and combed the horse or shook music from the buckled harness. When we returned to the street light from the kitchen windows had filled the areas. If my uncle was seen turning the corner we hid in the shadow until we had seen him safely home.

From *Dubliners*, by James Joyce

1. What changes does the author notice on his arrival in the passage from *Spies*? [3 marks]

2. What does the author think and feel about his return in the passage from *Spies*? [5 marks]

3. How does James Joyce use language to create atmosphere in his memory of childhood play in the passage from *Dubliners*? You should find examples from the passage to support your ideas. [7 marks]

4. Write a comparison between the two passages in which you explore the experiences of the two writers. [10 marks]

5. Write about a place that was important to you as a young child. You should aim to write about 200 words. [25 marks]