SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

October 2012
for entry in September 2013

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 4 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

November 11

At daybreak, when the blue-black turns to silver in the east, the moon sets with the darkness in the west. On frozen sun rays, fourteen pigeons come to pick about the yard, pale blue-grey birds with a broad white band across the tail that fills with light as they flutter down the rigid walls. Like all wild things at Crystal Mountain, the hill pigeons are tame, and do not fly as I draw near, but cock their gentle dovelike heads to see me better.

I climb the mountain with the sun, and find the mixed herd high up on the slope; I try angling towards them, then away again, zig-zagging as I climb. For some reason, this seems to reassure them, for after watching me awhile, and perhaps concluding that I am not to be taken seriously, they go on about their business, which this morning is unusually dull. I keep on climbing. Far below, the torrent, freed from daybreak ice, carries scree down the mountains.

Scree – loose rock debris at the foot of a hill or mountain

(Peter Matthiessen, from *The Snow Leopard*)

Passage 2

Now and again, through the black mass of drifting cloud, came a straggling ray of moonlight, which lit up the expanse, and showed me that I was at the end of a dense mass of cypress and yew trees. As the snow had ceased to fall, I walked out from the shelter and began to investigate more closely. It appeared to me that, amongst so many old foundations I had passed, there might be still standing a house in which, though in ruins, I could find some sort of shelter for a while. As I skirted the edge of the copse, I found that a low wall encircled it, and following this, I presently found an opening. Here the cypresses formed an alley leading up to a square mass of some kind of building. Just as I caught sight of this, however, the drifting clouds obscured the moon, and I passed up the path in darkness. The wind must have grown colder, for I felt myself shiver as I walked; but there was hope of shelter, and I groped my way blindly on.

Copse – a small thicket of trees

(Bram Stoker, from *Dracula's Guest*)

1. In Passage 1, what details does the writer use to describe the time and place?

[5 marks]

2. In Passage 2, how does the writer use language to create mood and atmosphere? You should try to find examples from the passage that support your ideas.

[7 marks]

3. Compare and contrast the two passages, in which you explore the experience of the two writers and their relationship with the settings in which they find themselves.

[13 marks]

4. Write about a particular moment or event that has happened to you when being on a journey. You should aim to write about 200 words.

[25 marks]