SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

October 2013
for entry in September 2014

ENGLISH

Your Name: …….

Your School: …….

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Equipment needed: Pen and lined paper.

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 questions that follow.
6. Dictionaries are NOT allowed.

Passage 1

We lived in a lock-keeper's cottage by the River Leem, which flows out of Norfolk into the Great Ouse. And no one needs telling that the land in that part of the world is flat. Flat, with an unrelieved and monotonous flatness, enough of itself, some might say, to drive a man to unquiet and sleep-defeating thoughts. From the raised banks of the Leem it stretched away to the horizon, its uniform colour, peat-black, varied only by the crops that grew upon it – grey-green potato leaves, blue-green beet leaves, yellow-green wheat; its uniform levelness broken only by the furrowed and dead-straight lines of ditches and drains, which ran like silver, copper, or golden wires across the fields. On those nights when my mother would be forced to tell me stories, the noise of the trains passing on the track to King's Lynn was like the baying of a monster closing in on us in our isolation.

(Graham Swift, from *Waterland)*

Passage 2

The sun was high in the sky now, it was hot under the trees, it smelt hot, and from everywhere in the forest around us there were sounds; of beating wings, of branches bending and twigs breaking, and the scream of a hawk and a hare's last sigh, and the tiny muffled boom each time a bee hit a flower. I took deep breaths through my nose and thought that no matter how life should turn out and however far I travelled I would always remember this place as it was just now and miss it. When I turned round I could see across the valley through a lattice of fir and pine, I saw the river winding and glittering below, I saw the red-tiled roof of Barkald's sawmill further south by the river bank and several small farmsteads on the green paths beside the narrow band of water. I knew how many people lived in each house, and if I did not see our cottage on the far bank I could point out exactly behind which trees it lay. I wondered if my father was still asleep, whether perhaps he had started making breakfast, and I could suddenly feel how hungry I was.

(Per Petterson, from *Out Stealing Horses)*

1. In Passage 1, what details does the writer focus on to describe where he lived as a child? [8 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. [10 marks]

3. Compare and contrast the two passages; you should explore the differences between the settings and the feelings that the writers have about where they live. [12 marks]

4. Write about a place that had a particular effect on you as a child. You should aim to write about 200 words. [20 marks]