SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

October 2014
for entry in September 2015

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

And then there were Australia's natural wonders. Jannali was not quite proper bush, but it was certainly an outer suburb. You could walk over the next hill and be back in the sort of country that the convicts used to die in when they ran away. Not that they would necessarily have died of hunger. There is plenty for you to eat. Unfortunately there is also plenty that wants to eat you. This was a land crawling with danger. There were snakes. Walking to school bare-footed along dirt paths lined with [1] banksias, I was always expecting to meet one of the snakes portrayed in the gaudily detailed charts which were hung up in the railway station and the post-office. Luckily the only snakes I ever encountered were harmless civilians: the filing clerks and secretaries of the serpentine world. But Uncle Vic caught a full-sized fighting snake outside our front gate. It was a black snake-one step worse than a brown snake. A black snake can kill an adult if it is big enough. This one was big enough. Uncle Vic pinned it to the ground in the middle but both ends went on trying to get at him.

(Clive James, from *Unreliable Memoirs)*

[1] *Banksias- Australian wildflower*

Passage 2

And there round a corner to the left where the stream fell sheer, stood high as the sky a chandelier of icicles. Hundreds upon hundreds upon hundreds of them down the shale steps of a waterfall. There were long ones and short ones and middling ones and fat ones like an arm and thin ones like a thread. They hung down from up as high as you could see and down to your very wellingtons. And not only water had turned to spears of glass but every living thing about-the grasses, the rushes, the spider webs, the tall great fearless thistles. You could pull the tubes of ice off the long wands of the loose-strife. You could lift them off like hollow needles. And as the sun turned them they all turned at once to every colour ever known –rose and orange and blue and green and lilac- and Harry and Bell watched them until the sun slipped down a little and left them icicles again.

(Jane Gardam, from *The Hollow Land)*

Shale – fragments of rock
Loose-strife – a tall flowering plant

1. What impression do you get of Australia in Passage 1? [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 landscape and the atmosphere that it conveys. It can be real or imagined. You should aim to write about 200 words. [20 marks]