SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

May 2015
for entry in September 2016

ENGLISH

Your Name: _____

Your School: _____

Time allowed: 1 hour

Equipment needed: Pen and lined paper.

Information for candidates:

1. Dictionaries are NOT allowed.
2. Write your name and school on this page.
3. Write your answers on the **separate paper** provided. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use.
4. There are 2 sections in this paper Section A and B. You should attempt both of them.
5. The paper will be marked out of 30. The marks for each question or part question are indicated in square brackets [ ].

SECTION A

Read the following extract and answer all the questions that follow:

High in the air the two bombers circled, mud coloured planes. They cut their throttles and soared, circling. And from the belly of each one tiny little objects dropped, hundreds of them, one after another. They plummeted a few feet and then little parachutes opened and drifted, small packages silently and slowly downward toward the earth, and the planes raised their throttles and gained altitude, and then cut their throttles and circled again, and more of the little objects plummeted down, and then the planes turned and flew back in the direction from which they had come.

The tiny parachutes floated like thistledown and the breeze spread them out and distributed them as seeds on the ends of thistledown are distributed. They drifted so slowly and landed so gently that sometimes the ten-inch packages of dynamite stood upright in the snow, and the little parachutes folded gently down around them. They looked black against the snow. They landed in the white fields and among the woods of the hills and they landed in trees and hung down from the branches. Some of them landed on the housetops of the little town, some in the small front yard and one landed and stood upright in the snow crown on top of the head of the village statue of St Albert.

And the word got to the children about the gift and they combed the countryside in a terrible Easter egg hunt, and when some lucky child saw the blue colour, he rushed to the prize and opened it and then he hid the tube and told his parents about it. And the soldiers scurried about the town in another Easter egg hunt, but they were not so good at it as the children were.

The Moon is down by John Steinbeck

1. In your own words explain what it is that the planes have dropped. [2 marks]
2. What do you think the writer means when he writes about "a terrible Easter egg hunt"? [3 marks]
3. In what ways and to what effect does the passage create contrasts of mood and atmosphere? You should include quotations to support your ideas. [10 marks]

SECTION B

Choose ONE of the questions below. You do not have to write a long piece. Think about using good vocabulary and writing accurately. [15 marks]

1. Continue the story in whatever way you would like.
2. Describe an event in which you focus on contrasting mood and atmosphere.