SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

April 2017
for entry in September 2018

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 40. The marks for each question are indicated in square brackets [ ].

SECTION A

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

In an armchair, with an elbow resting on the table and her head leaning on that hand, sat the strangest lady I have ever seen, or shall ever see.

She was dressed in rich materials – satins, and lace, and silks - all of white. Her shoes were white. And she had a long white veil hanging from her hair, and she had bridal flowers in her hair, but her hair was white. Some bright jewels sparkled on her neck and on her hands, some other jewels lay sparkling on the table. Dresses, less splendid than the dress she wore, and half-packed trunks, were scattered about. She has not quite finished dressing, for she had but one shoe on – the other was on the table near her hand – her veil was but half arranged, her watch and chain were not put on, and some lace for her shoulders lay with those trinkets, and with her handkerchief, and gloves and some flowers, and a Prayer–book[1], all confusedly heaped about the looking glass.

It was not in the first few moments that I saw all these things but I saw that everything within my view which ought to be white, had been white long ago, and had lost its lustre[2], and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and like the flowers, and had no brightness left but the brightness of her sunken eyes. I saw that the dress had been put upon the rounded figure of a young woman, and that the figure upon which it now hung loose, had shrunk to skin and bone. Once, I had been taken to see some ghastly waxworks[3] at the Fair. Once, I had been taken to one of our marsh churches to see a skeleton in the ashes of a rich dress, that had been dug from under the church pavement. Now, waxwork and skeleton seemed to have dark eyes that moved and looked at me.

Great Expectations Charles Dickens

1. Using evidence from the passage explain what you think has happened to the woman in the story. [5 marks]

2. What feelings do you think the narrator has towards the woman in the passage? Give examples to support your ideas. [5 marks]

3. What would you say was the atmosphere of the passage and how does Dickens create this atmosphere? You should give examples to support your ideas. [10 marks]

[1] A prayer book is a book containing prayers and religious readings
[2] Lustre – shining quality fabric
[3] Waxworks – life-like dummies modelled in wax

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. [20 marks]

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