St. Francis' College

Practice Paper

ENGLISH

Entry into Year 9

SECTION A Answer all of the following section by writing on the question paper.

1. Indicate the correct spelling by circling or underlining.

neccessary	neccesary	necessary	
definitelly	definitely	definately	
skillful	skilful	skillfull	
agression	aggresion	aggression	
charactar	character	charracter	
independentely	independently	independantly	
loneliness	loneleness	lonelyness	
criticicaly	criticaley	critically	
comitted	committed	commited	
laboratory	laboratary	laboratery	10 marks)

2. Match the words below to the meanings

frugal

epitome

succinct

idiosyncratic

incredulous

proclivity

surreptitious

ambivalent

ambiguous

apocryphal

tendency……

furtive, secret……

disbelieving……..

economical…….

unsure, in two minds……

individual, unique……

vague, confusing…….

untrue, invented…….

essence, embodiment…….

concise, brief…….

(10 marks)

20 marks

SECTION B Comprehension

The following extract is the opening of the story The Collectors by Philip Pullman. Read the extract carefully and answer all the questions.

'But the *thing is,*' said Horley, 'they didn't know each other at all. Never heard of each other. It wasn't about the makers. Only about the works.'

'And how did you hear about it?' said Grinstead.

'From the dealer who sold me the painting. Falcondale. Max Falcondale.'

'Reliable?'

'Well, within limits, you know, but he'd made the sale anyway. He just wanted to tell the story.'

It was December of 1970, and they were sitting in the Senior Common Room of Horley's college after dinner. It was cold, and the dinner had been meagre and dull, culminating in some sort of nut pudding that closely resembled wet cement. The small fire in the SCR had just enough energy to warm the rug

directly in front of it, and left the corners of the room to fend for themselves. There was more warmth coming from the two standard lamps on either side of the hearth. The company wasn't large: the Librarian, the Chaplain, a couple of young Fellows no one seemed to know by name, a visiting professor of philology, and Grinstead, Horley's guest for the evening. While the rest discussed European politics, Horley and Grinstead, occupying the shadows at the end of the sofa and the deepest armchair respectively, spoke quietly about a painting in Horley's possession.

Grinstead sipped his brandy and said quietly, 'Well, tell me what Falcondale said.'

'He told me the story as he'd heard it from the painter's daughter. Leonora Skipton. Her father usually painted landscapes in a sort of second-hand Impressionist manner, nothing especially original, but agreeable enough. He very rarely did portraits. This one was quite out of his usual range. Falcondale had no idea who the sitter was – a young woman with the most extraordinarily ambiguous expression – one moment she looks cold, disdainful, contemptuous even, and the next on fire with a sort of lost and hopeless and yet somehow very sexy yearning. A very *strong* picture.'

'What's she doing?'

'She's standing in front of a sort of dusty pink curtain, hands clasped in front, wearing a simple dark blue blouse thing and cream-coloured skirt. Very plain, very simple. It's all in the face.'

'She wasn't the daughter – Leonora, was it?' said Grinstead.

'No. The daughter couldn't stand the picture – loathed it. She came into Falcondale's gallery to confirm the identification, and said she wished it had been burnt the day it was painted. That was all she'd say. She's some incredible age – must be nearly a hundred. Oh, and he showed me a remarkable letter—'

'And what about the other piece?'

Re-read the opening up to '…wet cement'. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false by circling the letter T or F in each case. **Answer directly on the question paper for this question and write on file paper for the rest of the examination.**

1)

Grinstead bought the painting from a dealer called Max Falcondale. T

Falcondale sold the painting in December 1971. T F

Falcondale had wanted to tell Horley a story. T F

Horley and Grinstead had enjoyed their meal. T F

(4 marks)

2) What are Horley's views of art dealers in general and of Falcondale in particular? Use quotations from the text to support your points. (4 marks)

3) The story is set in a college at Oxford University. What impressions have you formed of the college? Use evidence from the text to support your views.

(6 marks)

4) Using evidence from the text, explain in detail what is unusual about the painting. (6 marks)

5) This is the opening section of a story. Explain in detail how Pullman uses language and structure to create mystery and suspense. Use quotations to support your ideas. (10 marks)

30 marks

SECTION C

Extended writing 30 marks

You should aim to write 1 – 2 sides.

Credit will be given for: good vocabulary

variety and originality of ideas

accurate spelling, punctuation and paragraphing

Write a description suggested by the title **The Quiet Room**.

Paper Total 80