WHITGIFT

ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR 13+ AGE GROUP

SAMPLE

- Group D – boys aged 13+ on 1st September

The following should take 70 minutes to complete

Spend equal time on each section

Section A

Read 'High Dive' and then answer the questions

High Dive

It feels very lonely, up here against the clouds
and girders of the glass roof. The pool so far away,
framed in flowers of a thousand upturned faces.

Walk to the brink, turn, and carefully
(firm toes gripping this last hold of life)
hang heels in space. Face a blank wall.

Raise arms slowly, sideways, shoulder-high,
silent passion, dream-deep concentration
foretelling every second of the coming flight.

Then with a sudden upward beat of palms,
of arms like wings, gathering more than thought
launch backwards into take-off, into one ball

roll for a quadruple reverse somersault
that at the last second flicks
open like a switchblade -

feet pointed as in prayer, neat folded hands
stab the heavens like a dagger, plunge
deep into the pool's azure flesh – without a splash.

James Kirkup

1. Explain how the speaker of the poem feels in lines 1-3 and why.

2. Describe, as exactly as you can, the position of the diver in the second stanza.

3. Describe in detail how the rhythm of lines 10-15 reflects the movement of the dive.

4. Identify four images in lines 15-18, explain what they are describing, and say how effective each is.

SAMPLE

Section B

Write a detailed description of a physical activity which you have carried out. Do not write a poem, but try to capture the feeling of the movements vividly and accurately.

SAMPLE