OUNDLE
School

2017 Academic Scholarship

English

Time allowed: 2 hours

Instructions

- **Dictionaries are not allowed**
- Answer on lined paper. Clearly mark your name at the top of each sheet of paper you use.
- Answer ALL the questions in Section A. Choose ONE question from Section B. You should divide your time equally between both sections.
- You are expected to write clearly and accurately in your answers. Write in full sentences. You should leave some time towards the end of the examination to check your work carefully.
- The maximum number of marks for this paper is 50

Section A: poetry comprehension

You should spend 60 minutes on this section.

The poems 'Peace' and 'Dreamers' present contrasting experiences of the First World War. Read both poems carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Questions 1, 2 and 3 are about 'Peace'. Questions 4, 5 and 6 are about 'Dreamers'. Question 7 invites you to consider both poems.

Peace by Rupert Brooke (1887-1915)

Now, God be thanked Who has matched us with His hour,
And caught our youth, and wakened us from sleeping,
With hand made sure, clear eye, and sharpened power,
To turn, as swimmers into cleanness leaping,
Glad from a world grown old and cold and weary,
Leave the sick hearts that honour could not move,
And half-men, and their dirty songs and dreary,
And all the little emptiness of love!

Oh! we, who have known shame, we have found release there,
Where there's no ill, no grief, but sleep has mending,
Naught broken save this body, lost but breath;
Nothing to shake the laughing heart's long peace there
But only agony, and that has ending;
And the worst friend and enemy is but Death.

Dreamers by Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967)

Soldiers are citizens of death's grey land,
Drawing no dividend* from time's to-morrows.
In the great hour of destiny they stand,
Each with his feuds, and jealousies, and sorrows.
Soldiers are sworn to action; they must win
Some flaming, fatal climax with their lives.
Soldiers are dreamers; when the guns begin
They think of firelit homes, clean beds and wives.

I see them in foul dug-outs, gnawed by rats,
And in the ruined trenches, lashed with rain,
Dreaming of things they did with balls and bats,
And mocked by hopeless longing to regain
Bank-holidays, and picture shows, and spats*,
And going to the office in the train.

*_dividend_: payment returned from an investment
*_spats_: a piece of cloth covering the ankle and part of the shoe to protect them from mud

On 'Peace'

1. This poem presents war as a positive experience. Give any three reasons suggested by the poem for this view. *(3 marks)*
2. Look again at the first line. What does the poet mean when he says 'Who has matched us with His hour'? *(2 marks)*
3. Look again at lines 9-14. What do these lines mean and how effectively do they make their point? *(4 marks)*

On 'Dreamers'

4. Find a metaphor in the poem and explain its meaning. *(2 marks)*
5. Look again at lines 9-10. How does the language used in these lines convey a sense of the awfulness of trench warfare? *(2 marks)*
6. Look again at lines 9-14. What is the speaker's attitude to the soldiers and how effectively does he express this? *(4 marks)*

On both poems

7. What is your opinion of these two poems? Support your answer with quotations from the texts. *(8 marks)*

   In your answer you might like to comment on:
   - what each poet thinks about war;
   - the effectiveness of comparisons, such as metaphors and similes;
   - the sound of the words in each poem and the way they are grouped together;
   - the form and structure of each poem.

(Total: 25 marks)

TURN OVER

Section B: Composition

Spend about 60 minutes on this section

The following are all opening sentences from a selection of different novels. Write a story or a piece of descriptive writing using ONE of these sentences as your opening sentence. Make your writing interesting and original. You are reminded of the importance of clear and accurate written English and of careful presentation in your answer. All questions carry equal marks.

1. 'The light in the hall gave the game away.' *(25 marks)*

OR

2. '"Love is the greatest of the passions," Miss Johnstone read, "the first and the last."' *(25 marks)*

OR

3. 'The first time I saw him I thought, *he won't last*.' *(25 marks)*

OR

4. 'In the end, I abandoned my new life, along with the people who had helped me to put it together, and I returned to the world of strange games and secret systems they had saved me from.' *(25 marks)*

OR

5. 'I have always been an appalling judge of character.' *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS