CITY OF LONDON
FREEMEN'S SCHOOL

SAMPLE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION PAPER

For pupils currently in Year 8

ENGLISH

Name:	Age:	Year:

Time: 1 hour

Instructions:

1. Answer **all** the questions in Section **A**.
2. Answer **ONE** question from Section **B**.
3. You will be given marks for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4. You have 60 minutes for the exam. Spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.

Section A	
Section B	
Total	

SSH	**S1212**	ENG

1. Section A

Read the poem 'Hard Frost' and then answer all of the questions.

The poem is a description of a cold and frosty morning in the countryside.

Hard Frost by Andrew John Young

Frost called to the water, 'Halt!'
And crusted the moist snow with sparkling salt;
Brooks, their one bridges, stop,
And icicles in long stalactites drop.
And tench in water-holes
Lurk under gluey glass like fish in bowls.

In the hard-rutted lane
At every footstep breaks a brittle pane,
And tinkling trees ice-bound,
Changed into weeping willows, sweep the ground;
Dead boughs take root in ponds
And ferns on windows shoot their ghostly fronds.

But vainly the fierce frost
Interns poor fish, ranks trees in an armed host,
Hangs daggers from house-eaves
And on the windows ferny ambush weaves;
In the long war grown warmer
The sun will strike him dead and strip his armour.

1. Select three words from the poem which present the frost as ‘hard.’

   - _____
   - _____
   - _____

[3 marks]

2. Why do you think the poet uses the word ‘tinkling’ to describe the trees?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

[4 marks]

3. What do you think the poet means by the line ‘The sun will strike him dead and strip his armour’?

_____
_____
_____
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_____
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_____
_____
_____

[6 marks]

Turn-over

4. How does the poet make the frost seem violent?

You might like to consider the following:

- The effect the frost has on the fish
- The effect the frost has on trees and plants
- The many references to sharp objects.

[12 marks]

Turn-over

Section B

Select and answer one of the following tasks:

1. Write a description of a cold and frosty landscape.

2. Write a newspaper story about an accident that happens in the snow.

3. Write a story with the starting line: 'My fingers went white and my teeth started to chatter in the cold, wintery air.'

[25 marks]