Independent Schools Examinations Board

COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AT 13+

ENGLISH

PAPER 2

WRITING

Tuesday 28 February 2006

Please read this information before the examination starts.

- You have 1 hour 20 minutes which includes planning time.
- The paper is divided into two sections. You should spend about 40 minutes on Section A and about 40 minutes on Section B.
- Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Vocabulary, spelling, grammar, punctuation and presentation are important and will be taken into account.

 © Independent Schools Examinations Board

SECTION A

STUDIED LITERATURE

Answer ONE of the following questions.

1. Can a character be humorous and still be heroic?

   With reference to one or more of the texts you have read, explore your responses to this question. (25)

2. Of the heroes and heroines whom you have encountered, which one has made the greatest impact on you because of his or her courage in the face of hardship? (25)

3. Choose a text which you feel deals with an important issue in an interesting way.

   State clearly what the issue is and explain in detail the different ways in which the writer makes you aware of the issue.

   In your answer, you might like to consider:
   - key events
   - the feelings of the characters and how they are made clear to you
   - any features of the text which add to your understanding of this issue. (25)

4. Which character has most appealed to you in the plays or novels which you have seen or read? (25)

SECTION B

WRITING TASK

Write on any ONE of the following topics. Credit will be given for good spelling, punctuation and presentation as well as imaginative and exciting use of vocabulary.

1. The Disused Station (25)

2. If only I could live somewhere else . . .

   Explain where and why. (25)

3. Write a letter to a pupil from another country who will be joining your class. Explain your school's customs and traditions. (25)

4.
   - a place of great calm
   - a remote and wild place
   - a place of destruction and devastation

   Use one of the above as the setting for a story in which two characters meet. It could be an unexpected meeting and it could have life-changing consequences for at least one of the individuals concerned. (25)

5. Animal stories such as *The Wind in the Willows* give a very pleasant and ideal picture of rural life. In reality, nature is not quite so ideal. Have you any experience of this which you can describe? (25)

6. Tests and exams are a fact of life. Some people get very nervous, others actually enjoy them. Describe, as vividly as you can, the morning of the exam, focusing on your feelings, the tension or excitement and the atmosphere of the room as you wait for the exam to begin. (25)

(Total marks: 50)