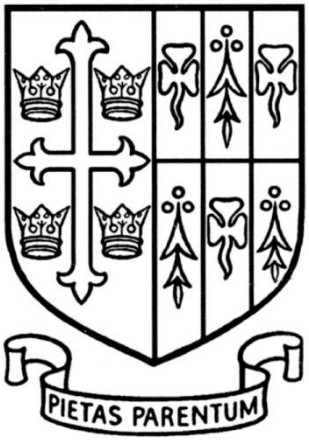
ST EDWARD'S OXFORD



13+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2012-13

ENGLISH

1 hour 10 Minutes

Answers should be written on lined paper. The exam is in **two sections:**

SECTION A tests your reading.

- The first **10 minutes** of the exam must be spent reading. You can make notes on the exam paper if you wish.
- The next **30 minutes** should be spent reading and answering the questions.

SECTION B tests the quality of your writing.

- You are advised to spend just under **30 minutes** writing your answer.
- Use the last few minutes to read over your work and correct any mistakes.

SECTION A: READING

Brendon Gallacher

He was seven and I was six, my Brendon Gallacher.
He was Irish and I was Scottish, my Brendon Gallacher.
His father was in prison; he was a cat burglar.
My father was a communist party full-time worker.
He had six brothers and I had one, my Brendon Gallacher.

He would hold my hand and take me by the river
where we'd talk all about his family being poor.
He'd get his mum out of Glasgow when he got older.
A wee holiday some place nice. Some place far.
I'd tell my mum about my Brendon Gallacher.

How his mum drank and his daddy was a cat burglar.
And she'd say, 'Why not have him round to dinner?'
No, no, I'd say, he's got big holes in his trousers.
I like meeting him by the burn in the open air.
Then one day after we'd been friends two years,

one day when it was pouring and I was indoors,
My mum says to me, 'I was talking to Mrs Moir
who lives next door to your Brendon Gallacher.
Didn't you say his address was 24 Novar?
She says there are no Gallachers at 24 Novar

There never have been any Gallachers next door.'
And he died then, my Brendon Gallacher,
flat out on my bedroom floor, his spiky hair,
his impish grin, his funny, flapping ear.
Oh Brendon. Oh my Brendon Gallacher.

– Jackie Kay

SECTION A: READING

Answer the following questions in full sentences written in clear, precise English. Spend about **30 minutes** altogether on this section.

1) How does the poet make the character of Brendon Gallacher exciting and interesting in stanzas one and two? (5)

2) How does the poet create a sense that the poem is written by a child? (12)

3) How did you the poem make you feel? In answering this question consider the language and structure of the poem. (13)

[Total for Section A: 30 marks]

SECTION B: WRITING

Choose ONE of the following tasks. Marks will be awarded for originality, clarity and vocabulary, as well as spelling and punctuation. Take a few minutes to plan before you begin writing. Spend about **30 minutes** on this section.

1. Write a short story entitled "My imaginary friend". [30]

2. Write about a very memorable experience in your life – good or bad – and explain why it was so significant. Be sure to write descriptively. [30]

3. "Children grow up too fast in the 21st Century". Do you agree? Use persuasive language in your answer. [30]

[Total for Section B: 30 marks]