Name:	Age:

Leicester High School for Girls

Specimen Entrance Examination

English for Year 10 Entry

Time: 1 hour

Write your answers in the spaces provided

There are two sections: Section A Reading Task
Section B Writing Task

Spend 30 minutes on each.

Marks will be given for presentation, spelling and punctuation so check your work carefully.

Section A: Reading Task

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions fully, in complete sentences, referring to the text whenever possible.

Ray Bradbury describes an encounter with a Tyrannosaurus Rex from his science fiction story, 'Sound of Thunder'. A man named Eckels has travelled back in time to the age of the dinosaurs.

Extract from 'Sound of Thunder'

It came on great oiled, resilient, striding legs. It towered thirty feet above half of the trees, a great evil god, folding its delicate watchmaker's claws close to its oily reptilian chest. Each lower leg was a piston, a thousand pounds of white bone, sunk in thick ropes of muscle, sheathed over in a gleam of pebbled skin like the mail of a terrible warrior. Each thigh was a ton of meat, ivory and steel mesh. And from the great breathing cage of the upper body those two delicate arms dangled out front, arms with hands which might pick up and examine men like toys, while the snake neck recoiled. And the head itself, a ton of sculptured stone, lifted easily upon the sky. Its mouth gaped, exposing a fence of teeth like daggers. Its eyes rolled, ostrich eggs, empty of all expression save hunger. It closed its mouth in a death grin. It ran, its pelvic bones crushing aside trees and bushes, its taloned feet clawing damp earth, leaving prints six inches deep wherever it settled its weight. It ran with a gliding ballet step, far too poised and balanced for its ten tons. It moved into a sunlit arena warily, its beautifully reptile hands feeling the air.

"My God!" Eckels twitched his mouth. "It could reach up and grab the moon."

"Sh!" Travis jerked angrily. "He hasn't seen us yet."

"It can't be killed." Eckels pronounced his verdict quietly, as if there could be no argument. He had weighed the evidence and this was his considered opinion. The rifle in his hands seemed a cap gun. "We were fools to come. This is impossible."

"Shut up!" hissed Travis.

"Nightmare."

"Turn around," commanded Travis. "Walk quietly to the machine. We'll remit one half your fee."

"I didn't realise it would be this *big*," said Eckels. "I miscalculated, that's all. And now I want out."

"It *sees* us!"

"There's the red paint on its chest!"

The Thunder Lizard raised itself. Its armoured flesh glittered like a thousand green coins. The coins, crusted with slime, steamed. In the slime, tiny insects wriggled, so that the entire body seemed to twitch and undulate, even while the monster itself did not move. It exhaled. The stink of raw flesh blew down the wilderness.

Now write an essay in which you:

- **Explain what you learn about the Tyrannosaurus Rex**
- **Describe the feelings and reactions of Eckels and Travis**
- **Analyse the effectiveness of some of the words and phrases used in the extract**

25 marks

Section B: Writing Task

Either:

a) Write a short article for the travel section of your school newspaper, entitled “Travellers’ Tales”, about a place you have visited.

You should include:

- Some factual details about the location you have chosen
- The atmosphere which you noticed
- Your personal response to the place

Or:

b) If time were a dimension in which we could freely travel, where in the past would you like to go?
Imagine your journey there, and a day spent in the location of your choice.

25 marks