OUNDLE
School

2018 Non-Common Entrance Examination
Fourth Form Entry

English

Time allowed: 60 minutes

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. Answer 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 40.

Section A: Comprehension

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

Read Anthony Thwaite's poem 'The Pond' and then answer the questions that follow. A minnow is a small fish.

The Pond

With nets and kitchen sieves they raid the pond,
Chasing the minnows into bursts of mud,
Scooping and chopping, raking up frond after frond
Of swollen weed after a week of flood.

Thirty or forty minnows bob and flash
In every jam-jar hoarded on the edge,
While the shrill children with each ill-aimed splash
Haul out another dozen as they dredge.

Choked to its banks, the pond spills out its store
Of frantic life. Nothing can drain it dry
Of what it breeds: it breeds so effortlessly
Theft seems to leave it richer than before.

The nostrils snuff its rank bouquet – how warm,
How lavish, foul, and indiscriminate, fat
With insolent appetite and thirst, so that
The stomach almost heaves to see it swarm.

But trapped in glass the minnows flail and fall,
Sink, with up-ended bellies showing white.
After an hour I look and see that all
But four or five have died. The greenish light

Ripples to stillness, while the children bend
To spoon the corpses out, matter of fact,
Absorbed: as if creation's prodigal act
Shrank to this empty jam-jar in the end.

Anthony Thwaite (1930–)

1. What does the phrase 'bursts of mud' (line 2) tell us about the minnows' movements?
(2 marks)

3. Look again at the second stanza. What do you think the poet's opinion is of the children and their games?
(3 marks)

4. What impression of the pond is created in the third and fourth stanzas? Support your answer with close reference to the text.
(6 marks)

5. What contrast is made between the life of the pond and the minnows in the jars and why is it made?
(4 marks)

6 What point do you think the poet is making in the final two lines of the poem?
(5 marks)

(Total: 20 marks)

Section B: Composition

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

Answer ONE of the following questions. You are reminded of the importance of clear and accurate written English and of careful presentation in your answers. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Describe a location in nature – real or imagined – in such a way that you create a clear picture of it in the reader's mind. Do not attempt to write a poem.
(20 marks)

2. 'But four or five have died.' Write a story that begins with these words.
(20 marks)

3. 'Childhood activities.' Use this title as EITHER:

   a) the headline for an article for a teenage magazine

   OR

   b) a speech to present to your school assembly.

(20 marks)