14+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Sample Paper

SOLIHULL

2016

ENGLISH

14+ English Entrance Examination

Time allowed: 1 hour

You should complete both Section A and Section B

Section A

Read the poem below then answer the questions that follow on the lined paper provided. Make sure that your candidate number is written clearly on the top of each sheet of paper that you use. You are advised to spend **thirty minutes** on this section. This section is worth **thirty-five marks**.

Wind

This house has been far out at sea all night,
The woods crashing through darkness, the booming hills,
Winds stampeding the fields under the window
Floundering black astride and blinding wet

Till day rose; then under an orange sky
The hills had new places, and wind wielded
Blade-light, luminous black and emerald,
Flexing like the lens of a mad eye.

At noon I scaled along the house-side as far as
The coal-house door. Once I looked up -
Through the brunt wind that dented the balls of my eyes
The tent of the hills drummed and strained its guyrope,

The fields quivering, the skyline a grimace,
At any second to bang and vanish with a flap;
The wind flung a magpie away and a black-
Back gull bent like an iron bar slowly. The house

Rang like some fine green goblet in the note
That any second would shatter it. Now deep
In chairs, in front of the great fire, we grip
Our hearts and cannot entertain book, thought,

Or each other. We watch the fire blazing,
And feel the roots of the house move, but sit on,
Seeing the window tremble to come in,
Hearing the stones cry out under the horizons.



By Ted Hughes

1. What literary technique has the poet used in the line following line: ‘The woods crashing through darkness, the booming hills’? What effect is created? (3)

2. What technique has been used in this phrase ‘Winds stampeding the fields’? Is it a simile, personification, metaphor, rhyme, or onomatopoeia? Why has the poet chosen to use the word ‘stampeding’? (4)

3. Why do you think that the ‘hills had new places’? What impression is the poet trying to create? (2)

4. Explain why you think that the poet uses the word 'quivering' in line 16. (3)

5. Read the following phrase: ‘*We watch the fire blazing, And feel the roots of the house move*’. By using the word ‘roots’, what technique has the poet used? A simile, personification, metaphor, onomatopoeia, or hyperbole? Explain your answer. (2)

6. Read the following sentence: ‘*The wind flung a magpie away and a black-Back gull bent like an iron bar slowly*.’ What is it that makes these lines so memorable and effective? (4)

7. Find an example of when the poet appeals to the reader's sense of sound in the second half of the poem. Explain the effect that is created. (3)

8. Choose three adjectives to describe the atmosphere that is created in the poem. (2)

9. What lesson does this poem teach the reader about nature? (7)

10. Is the poem written in the first or third person perspective? What effect is created? (3)

11. Describe the tone of the speaker. (2)

Section B

Begin section B on a new sheet of the lined paper provided. Make sure that your candidate number is written clearly on the top of each sheet of paper that you use. This task is worth **thirty marks** and you are advised to spend **thirty** minutes on this section.

Choose **one** of the following creative writing challenges.

You will be marked on:

- your use of varied, interesting vocabulary and imagery
- the accuracy of your grammar and expression
- the originality of your ideas
- your ability to create an interesting and original story or description

Either:

1. Write a short story where the following scenario occurs:

   You are driving alone on a quiet road when you spot a hitchhiker looking for a lift. You decide to pick him or her up but as you drive away with them in the passenger seat, you begin to suspect that something is not quite right...

Or:

2. Use the following sentence as an opening to a short story:
   'I crouched behind the car, trying not to make a sound'.

Or:

3. Write a description of a busy city scene. Write about lots of different things that you can see and hear around you and try to use all five senses in your description. You do not need to tell a story; you will be marked on how well you can describe the scene. You can use the picture below as inspiration.



End