



2019 Non-Common Entrance Examination

Fourth Form Entry

English

Time allowed: 1 hour

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 50.

Section A: Comprehension

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

Read Herbert Read's poem 'Night Ride' and then answer the questions that follow.

Night Ride

Along the black
leather strap
of the night-
deserted road

swiftly rolls
the freighted bus.
Huddled together
two lovers doze

5

their hands linkt
across their laps
their bodies loosely
interlockt

10

their heads resting
two heavy fruits
on the plaited
basket of their limbs.

15

Slowly the bus
slides into light.
Here are hills
detach'd from dark

20

the road uncoils
a white ribbon
the lovers with
the hills unfold

wake cold
to face the fate
of those who love
despite the world.

25

Herbert Read (1893–1968)

1. Look again at the first stanza. How effective do you find the description of the road as a 'black / leather strap'?
(2 marks)
2. Why do you think the poet spells the words 'linkt' and 'interlockt' (lines 9 and 12) in the old-fashioned way he does?
(2 marks)
3. Look again at the fourth stanza. How effective do you consider the description of the heads of the lovers? Explain your answer as fully as possible.
(5 marks)
4. Look at line 18. Why should the poet say of the bus that it slides 'into light'?
(3 marks)
5. Describe the situation of the lovers as it is presented in the last stanza. What, for example, is the 'fate' referred to and in what sense do the lovers 'wake cold'?
(5 marks)
6. Considering the poem as a whole, do you think that the poet is sympathetic or not towards the lovers? You should support your answer with close reference to the text.
(8 marks)

(Total: 25 marks)

TURN OVER

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 journey – real or imagined – that you have taken with another person. Write in such a way that you create a clear picture of both the journey and your companion in the reader's mind. Do not attempt to write a poem.
(25 marks)

2. 'The secret lovers'. Write a story with this title.
(25 marks)

3. 'At odds with the world.' 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.
(25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS