



# OUNDLE

School

2019 Academic Scholarship  
Preliminary Examination

## 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. Choose ONE question from Section B. You should divide your time equally between both sections.
- You are expected to write clearly and accurately throughout each of your answers. 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

You should spend 30 minutes on this section

The following poem is by the poet Vernon Scannell (1922-2007). Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow. You should support your answers with quotations from the poem, as appropriate.

### *The Fair*

Music and yellow steam, the fizz  
Of spinning lights as roundabouts  
Gallop nowhere whirl and whizz  
Through fusillades\* of squeals and shouts;  
The night sniffs rich at pungent spice, 5  
Brandysnap and diesel oil;  
The stars like scattered beads of rice  
Sparsely fleck the sky's deep soil  
Dulled and diminished by these trapped  
Melodic meteors below 10  
In whose feigned fever brightly lapped  
The innocent excitements flow.  
Pocketfuls of simple thrills  
Jingle silver, purchasing  
A warm and sugared fear that spills 15  
From dizzy car and breathless swing.  
So no one hears the honest shriek  
From the field beyond the fair,  
A single voice becoming weak  
Then dying on the ignorant air. 20  
And not for hours will frightened love  
Rise and seek her everywhere,  
Then find her, like a fallen glove  
Soiled and crumpled, lying there.

\* *fusillade* a series of shots fired in rapid succession

1. How exactly does the poet attempt to capture the atmosphere of the fair in the first few lines? (4 marks)
2. Describe the poet's attitude to the fair. You could start by considering the phrases 'Melodic meteors' (line 10), 'feigned fever' (line 11) and 'sugared fear' (line 15). (4 marks)

3. Why is the shriek coming from the field described as 'honest' (line 17) and the air as 'ignorant' (line 20)? *(4 marks)*
4. What impression is created by the final two lines of the poem? *(3 marks)*
5. What is your opinion of this poem? In your answer you might like to comment on:
- the effectiveness of comparisons, such as metaphors and similes
  - the sound of the words in the poem and the way they are grouped together
  - the form and structure of the poem. *(10 marks)*

*(Total: 25 marks)*

**TURN OVER**

## Section B: Composition

**Spend about 30 minutes on this section**

The following are all opening sentences from a selection of different novels. Write a story or a piece of descriptive writing using ONE of these sentences as your opening sentence. Make your writing interesting and original. Credit will be given to how well your writing fits with and develops from your chosen sentence. You are reminded of the importance of clear and accurate written English and of careful presentation in your answer. All questions carry equal marks.

1. A man came down the steps cut in the rock. *(25 marks)*

OR

2. It was really summer, but the rain had fallen all day and was still falling. *(25 marks)*

OR

3. I came home on the last train. *(25 marks)*

OR

4. The hem of her black silk gown swept up a miniature storm of dust in the lane. *(25 marks)*

OR

5. I should have realized they'd call the police when they found me missing. *(25 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**