



**OUNDLE**

School

2020 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 60.

## Section A: Comprehension

You should spend 30 minutes on this section

The following poem is by the poet Douglas Dunn (born 1942). Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow. You should support your answers with quotations from the poem, as appropriate. Leave yourself enough time to answer the last question in full detail.

### *Ships*

When a ship passes at night on the Clyde  
The swans in the reeds picking the oil from their feathers  
Look up at the lights, the noise of new waves,  
Against hill-climbing houses, malefic\* cranes.

A fine rain attaches itself to the ship like skin. 5  
The lascars\* play poker, the Scottish mate looks  
At the last lights, that one is Ayrshire,  
Others on lonely rocks, or clubfooted peninsulas.

They leave restless boys without work in the rivertowns. 10  
In their houses are fading pictures of fathers ringed  
Among ships' complements in wartime, model destroyers,  
Souvenirs from uncles deep in distant engine rooms.

Then the boys go out, down streets that look on water.  
They say, 'I could have gone with them', 15  
A thousand times to themselves in the glass cafés,  
Over their American soft drinks, into their empty hands.

\* *malefic* causing harm or destruction

\* *lascar* a sailor from India or South East Asia

1. What impression of the ship yard and surrounding area is created in stanza one?  
(3 marks)
2. Comment on any words or phrases in stanza two which continue the impression created in stanza one.  
(4 marks)

3. What point is the poet making when he says that the pictures are 'fading' (line 10) and that the souvenirs are 'from uncles deep in distant engine rooms' (line 12)?  
(3 marks)
4. Is the unusual phrase 'glass cafés' (line 15) merely descriptive, or is the poet trying to suggest something more here?  
(5 marks)
5. In what way might the phrase 'empty hands' (line 16) be said to sum up the boys' situation?  
(5 marks)
6. What is your opinion of this poem? As well as writing about the meaning of the 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: 30 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 or short stories. 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. The great surge of emotion, the milling and shouting of the people, fell gradually to silence in the town park.

*(30 marks)*

OR

2. Marika thrust the glass jar up to Veronica's face.

*(30 marks)*

OR

3. So I was alone, surrounded by November gloom and whirling snow; the house was smothered in it and there was a moaning in the chimneys.

*(30 marks)*

OR

4. They thought we had disappeared, and they were wrong.

*(30 marks)*

OR

5. By eleven o'clock that night Jim realised how slowly time went when you were on your own.

*(30 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**