



**OUNDLE**

School

2020 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 R. S. Thomas's poem 'Cynddylan on a Tractor' and then answer the questions that follow. Leave yourself enough time to answer the last question in full detail.

### *Cynddylan on a Tractor*

Ah, you should see Cynddylan on a tractor.  
Gone the old look that yoked him to the soil;  
He's a new man now, part of the machine,  
His nerves of metal and his blood oil.  
The clutch curses, but the gears obey 5  
His least bidding, and lo, he's away  
Out of the farmyard, scattering hens.  
Riding to work now as a great man should,  
He is the knight at arms breaking the fields'  
Mirror of silence, emptying the wood 10  
Of foxes and squirrels and bright joys.  
The sun comes over the tall trees  
Kindling all the hedges, but not for him  
Who runs his engine on a different fuel.  
And all the birds are singing, bills wide in vain, 15  
As Cynddylan passes proudly up the lane.

R. S. Thomas (1913-2000)

1. What can you deduce about the poet's attitude to Cynddylan from the tone of the first line?  
(2 marks)
2. What do the words 'the old look' and 'yoked' (line 2) suggest to you about Cynddylan before he acquired the tractor?  
(3 marks)
3. Why has the poet chosen to describe Cynddylan as a 'knight at arms' (line 9)?  
(4 marks)
4. What is the relationship now between Cynddylan and the natural world?  
(5 marks)

5. For what reason are the birds' bills 'wide in vain' (line 15)?  
(3 marks)
6. Is the poet simply against progress in the form of the tractor or is his analysis of the situation more subtle than this? You should support your answer with close reference to the text.  
(8 marks)
- (Total: 25 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 significant change that has occurred – real or imagined – and your reaction to it. Write in such a way that you convey a clear picture of both the change and your reaction in the reader's mind. Do not attempt to write a poem.  
(25 marks)
2. 'He's a new man now'. Write a story with this title.  
(25 marks)
3. Does technology always make our world a better place? Use this question as EITHER:
- a) the headline for an article for a teenage magazine
- OR
- b) a speech to present to your school assembly.  
(25 marks)