



OUNDLE

School

EXAMINATION PAPER
Non Common Entrance 2022
Fourth Form entry

English

Time allowed: 1 hour

Name: _____

Instructions

- Dictionaries are not allowed.
- Answer on lined paper. Write your name clearly at the top of each sheet of paper that 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

Read Anthony Thwaite's poem 'The Bonfire' and then answer the questions that follow. Leave yourself enough time to answer the last question in full detail.

The Bonfire

Day by day, day after day, we fed it
With straw, mown grass, shavings, shaken weeds,
The huge flat leaves of umbrella plants, old spoil
Left by the builders, combustible; yet it
Coughed fitfully at the touch of a match, 5
Flared briefly, spat flame through a few dry seeds
Like a chain of fireworks, then slumped back to the soil
Smouldering and smoky, leaving us to watch

Only a heavy grey mantle without fire.
This glum construction seemed choked at heart, 10
The coils of newspaper burrowed into its hulk
Led our small flames into the middle of nowhere,
Never touching its centre, sodden with rot.
Ritual petrol sprinklings wouldn't make it start
But swerved and vanished over its squat brown bulk, 15
Still heavily sullen, grimly determined not

To do away with itself. A whiff of smoke
Hung over it as over a volcano.
Until one night, late, when we heard outside
A crackling roar, and saw the far field look 20
Like a Gehenna* claiming its due dead.
The beacon beckoned, fierily aglow
With days of waiting, hiding deep inside
Its bided time, ravenous to be fed.

Anthony Thwaite (1930-2021)

* *Gehenna*: a fiery Biblical hell

1. Unable to light the bonfire, the poet describes how it 'slumped back to the soil / Smouldering and smoky' (lines 7-8). How effective do you consider this description to be? [3 marks]
2. Look closely at the second stanza. Give two examples of how the poet uses metaphor here and comment on the effects created by each one. [4 marks]
3. Comment on the poet's use of structure in this poem. [6 marks]
4. The poet compares the bonfire to 'Gehenna', a fiery Biblical hell (line 21). Why do you think he does this? [4 marks]
5. What do you consider the overall meaning of this poem to be? Is it simply about a bonfire or is the poet exploring other ideas? [8 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

SECTION B: COMPREHENSION

You should spend 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 answer. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Describe a raging fire in such a way that creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind. Do not attempt to write a poem. [25 marks]

OR

2. 'The beacon beckoned.' Write a story that begins with these words. [25 marks]

OR

3. 'We all get angry.' Use this title as the basis for EITHER:

(a) an article in a teenage magazine offering advice about how to deal with anger

OR

(b) a speech about anger to present to your school assembly.

[25 marks]

END OF PAPER