



OUNDLE

School

EXAMINATION PAPER

Academic Scholarship 2023

English

Time allowed: 2 hours

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 appropriately between both sections.
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- You are expected to write clearly and accurately throughout each of your answers, paying careful attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar. 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 55.

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

You should spend about 60 minutes on this section

Both the poems below are set somewhere there is a lack of water. Read the poems carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Questions 1 and 2 are about the first poem. Questions 3 and 4 are about the second poem. Question 5 invites you to consider both poems together. In all your answers we are looking to see evidence of the depth and sophistication of your understanding and analysis. Question 5 is your opportunity really to show your ability to the full, so give yourself enough time for it. Support all your answers with quotations from the poems, as appropriate.

Burgos

Nightingales crackled in the frost
At Burgos. The day dawned fiercely
On the parched land, on the fields to the east
Of the city, bitter with sage
And thistle. Lonely bells called 5
From the villages; no one answered
Them but the sad priests, fingering
Their beads, praying for the lost people
Of the soil. Everywhere were the slow
Donkeys, carrying silent men 10
To the mesa* to reap their bundles
Of dried grass. In the air an eagle
Circled, shadowless as the God
Who made that country and drinks its blood.

**mesa* an isolated flat-topped ridge or hill

R. S. Thomas (1913-2000)

Blessing

The skin cracks like a pod.
There never is enough water.

Imagine the drip of it,
the small splash, echo 5
in a tin mug,
the voice of a kindly god.

Sometimes the sudden rush
of fortune. The municipal pipe bursts,
silver crashes to the ground 10
and the flow has found
a roar of tongues. From the huts,
a congregation: every man woman
child for streets around

butts in, with pots, brass, copper, aluminium, plastic buckets, frantic hands,	15
and naked children screaming in the liquid sun, their highlights polished to perfection, flashing light, as the blessing sings over their small bones.	20
	25

Imtiaz Dharker (born 1954)

On 'Burgos'

1. How does the poet present the landscape in this poem? [4 marks]
2. Comment on the structure and form of the poem. [5 marks]

On 'Blessing'

3. Discuss some of the examples of contrast in this poem. [5 marks]
4. What do you think this poem is about? [4 marks]

On both poems

5. Compare and contrast these two poems in any way you think is interesting and appropriate.
You may wish to look at:

- the content and meaning of the poems;
- the form and structure of the poems;
- the use of literary techniques.

[12 marks]

[Total: 30 marks]

TURN OVER

SECTION B: COMPREHENSION

You should spend about 60 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 or closing sentence. Credit will be given for how well your writing fits with your chosen sentence as well as for its own creativity and flair. 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. I am suspected of wanting to kill children. [25 marks]

OR

2. At this time of year it is important to rake up leaves. [25 marks]

OR

3. It seems increasingly likely that I really will undertake the expedition that has been preoccupying my imagination now for some days. [25 marks]

OR

4. When a day that you happen to know is Wednesday starts off by sounding like Sunday, there is something seriously wrong somewhere. [25 marks]

OR

5. I had the story, bit by bit, from various people, and, as generally happens in such cases, each time it was a different story. [25 marks]

END OF PAPER