

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, MILL HILL SCHOOL**13+ Entry****ENGLISH***January 2014**Time Allowed: 1 hour, 30 minutes*

This paper contains two sections, A and B. Section A is subdivided into i) and ii) (prose and poetry respectively).

Section A is worth a total of *40 marks*, and Section B is *30 marks*, totalling *70 marks* for the whole paper.

Answer all questions in Section A (on both the prose passage and poem) and one from Section B.

In Section A the questions are flagged to relative difficulty as follows:

- * = straightforward
- ** = slightly difficult
- *** = challenging/complex (up to scholarship standard)

Section A: Comprehension:**i) PROSE (20 marks)**

Read the following passage and then answer all of the questions that follow it. You will be assessed upon the quality of your understanding as well as your powers of analysis and evaluation, appreciation of writing technique and personal response. You should spend about 30 minutes on the prose passage and its related questions.

The narrator, Scout, is a young girl living with her father(Atticus)and brother (Jem) in the remote American town of Maycomb.

Maycomb was an old town, but it was a tired old town when I first knew it. In rainy weather the streets turned to red slop; grass grew on the sidewalks, the courthouse sagged in the square. Somehow, it was hotter then: a black dog suffered on a summer's days; bony mules hitched to Hoover carts flicked flies in the sweltering shade of the live oaks on the square. Men's stiff collars wilted by nine in the morning. Ladies bathed before noon, after their three o'clock naps, and by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frostings of sweat and sweet talcum.

People moved slowly then. They ambled across the square, shuffled in and out of the stores around it, took their time about everything. A day was twenty-four hours long but seemed longer. There was no hurry, for there was nowhere to go, nothing to buy and no money to buy it with, nothing to see outside the boundaries of Maycomb County. But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people; Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself.

We lived on the main residential street in town – Atticus, Jem and I, plus Calpurnia our cook. Jem and I found our father satisfactory: he played with us, read to us, and treated us with courteous detachment.

Calpurnia was something else again. She was all angles and bones; she was near-sighted; she squinted; her hand was wide as a bed slat and twice as hard. She was always ordering me out of the kitchen, asking me why I couldn't behave as well as Jem when she knew he was older, and calling me home when I wasn't ready to come. Our battles were epic and one-sided. Calpurnia always won, mainly because Atticus always took her side. She had been with us ever since Jem was born, and I had felt her tyrannical presence as long as I could remember.

Taken from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee (1960), Heinemann

Questions:

- 1) List two adjectives used in the first sentence that describe Maycomb. **(2 marks)***
- 2) Describe the quality of life for the residents of Maycomb. *Support your answer with at least two quotations.* **(4 marks)***
- 3) i) Write down a simile that is used in this passage.* **(1 mark)***
ii) Describe briefly how it is effective for the author's/Scout's purposes.****(1 mark)***
- 4) What impression does Scout give of Atticus as a father? *Support your answer with at least two quotations.* **(6 marks)****
- 5) Why does Scout describe Calpurnia's physical appearance? **(2 marks)****
- 6) Explain in your own words what is meant by the following words/phrases *in the context of this passage*:

Sagged (*paragraph 1*) **(1 mark)****

Ambled (*paragraph 2*) **(1 mark)***

Epic (*paragraph 4*) **(1 mark)****

Tyrannical presence (*paragraph 4*) **(1 mark)****

(Total of 20 marks for Prose section)

ii) Poetry (20 marks)

Read the following poem and then answer all of the questions that follow it. You will be assessed upon the quality of your understanding as well as your powers of analysis and evaluation, appreciation of writing technique and personal response. You should spend about 30 minutes on the poem and its related questions.

Hard Frost

Frost called to water 'Halt!'
And crusted the moist snow with sparkling salt;
Brooks, their own bridges, stops,
And icicles in long stalactites drop,
And tench in water-holes
Lurk under gluey glass like fish in bowls.

In the hard-rutted lane
At every footstep breaks a brittle pane,
And tinkling trees ice-bound,
Changed into weeping willows, sweep the ground;
Dead boughs take root in ponds
And ferns on windows shoot their ghostly fronds.

But vainly the fierce frost
Interns poor fish, ranks trees in an armed host,
Hangs daggers from the house-eaves
And on the windows ferny ambush weaves;
In the long war grown warmer
The sun will strike him dead and strip his armour.

Andrew Young

- 1) According to the poet in the first stanza the frost has five particular effects. List each of these in your own words as far as possible. **(5 marks)**
- 2) In the second stanza there are many words containing the letter 't'.
 - a) What is the literary technique being used by the poet here? **(1 mark)****
 - b) What is the intended effect of this? **(2 marks)****
- 3) Explain briefly what is meant by the following words/phrases *in the context of this poem*:
 - a) *Brittle** **(1 mark)**
 - b) *Dead boughs take root in ponds*** **(1 mark)**
 - c) *Interns*** **(1 mark)**
 - d) *The sun will strike him dead and strip his armour*** **(2 marks)**
 - e) *Stalactites**** **(1 mark)**
- 4) 'The weather is one of nature's most amazing means of expression.'
Write a brief description of a type of weather that is, to you, particularly striking.
You should offer a paragraph written in prose – *don't write in verse*. Write 40-60 words.*** **(6 marks)**

Section B: Composition

Choose any one of the following questions. You spend about 30 minutes on this section of the paper.

- 1) Write a short story which begins with the following sentence: 'George had got it horribly wrong again. Ever since that time...' (30 marks)
- 2) Write about a moment/event in your life that was really special for you. Outline the situation and explain why it had such a good effect upon you. (30 marks)
- 3) 'There must be a better way of doing this!' Write about something in modern life that, in your opinion, is often done badly and suggest ways in which it could be improved. (30 marks)

(Total of 30 marks composition section)