



Entrance Examinations (14+)

2018

English

45 Minutes

Answer EITHER question 1 OR question 2

Please write your name clearly at the top of every sheet you write on.

1. Read the following poem by the 20th century English poet Philip Larkin.

How does the writer describe his relationship with money?

To help you answer the question you should consider the effects created by:

- His choice of words
- The different formal techniques used
- The poem's tone or feeling

Money

Quarterly, is it, money reproaches me:

‘Why do you let me lie here wastefully?

I am all you never had of goods and sex.

You could get them still by writing a few cheques.’

So I look at others, what they do with theirs:

They certainly don't keep it upstairs.

By now they've a second house and car and wife:

Clearly money has something to do with life

—In fact, they've a lot in common, if you enquire:

You can't put off being young until you retire,

And however you bank your screw¹, the money you save

Won't in the end buy you more than a shave.

I listen to money singing. It's like looking down

From long french windows² at a provincial town,

The slums, the canal, the churches ornate and mad

In the evening sun. It is intensely sad.

¹ Slang for money.

² French windows are large windows.

2. Read carefully the following extract, taken from Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*. It describes Pip's thoughts and impressions upon first meeting Miss Havisham.

How does the writer make you feel about the character of Miss Havisham?

To help you answer the question you should consider:

- The description of the room in which she exists
- Her physical appearance
- How these descriptions affect Pip (the protagonist and narrator of this story)

In an arm-chair, with an elbow resting on the table and her head leaning on that hand, sat the strangest lady I have ever seen, or shall ever see.

She was dressed in rich materials - satins, and lace, and silks - all of white. Her shoes were white. And she had a long white veil dependent from³ her hair, and she had bridal flowers in her hair, but her hair was white. Some bright jewels sparkled on her neck and on her hands, and some other jewels lay sparkling on the table. Dresses, less splendid than the dress she wore, and half-packed trunks⁴, were scattered about. She had not quite finished dressing, for she had but one shoe on - the other was on the table near her hand - her veil was but half arranged, her watch and chain were not put on, and some lace for her bosom⁵ lay with those trinkets⁶, and with her handkerchief, and gloves, and some flowers, and a prayer-book, all confusedly heaped about the looking-glass.

It was not in the first few moments that I saw all these things, though I saw more of them in the first moments than might be supposed. But, I saw that everything within my view which ought to be white, had been white long ago, and had lost its lustre⁷, and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and like the flowers, and had no brightness left but the brightness of her sunken eyes. I saw that the dress had been put upon the rounded figure of a young woman, and that the figure upon which it now hung loose, had shrunk to skin and bone. Once, I had been taken to see some ghastly waxwork at the Fair, representing I know not what impossible⁸ personage lying in state. Once, I had been taken to one of our old marsh churches to see a skeleton in the ashes of a rich dress that had been dug out of a vault⁹ under the church pavement. Now, waxwork and skeleton seemed to have dark eyes that moved and looked at me. I should have cried out, if I could.

³ Hanging on/attached to (her hair)

⁴ Cases

⁵ Garment or material worn to cover the breast

⁶ Ornaments

⁷ Shine/glow

⁸ Unbelievable

⁹ Tomb



Entrance Examinations

2018

English Comprehension

20 Minutes

You should spend five minutes reading and annotating the poem and 15 minutes answering the three questions.

Please write your name on each sheet of paper that you use.

Total:	%
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A Birthday

My heart is like a singing bird
 Whose nest is in a water'd shoot;
My heart is like an apple-tree
 Whose boughs are bent with thickset fruit;
My heart is like a rainbow shell
 That paddles in a halcyon¹ sea;
My heart is gladder than all these
 Because my love is come to me.

Raise me a dais² of silk and down;
 Hang it with vair³ and purple dyes;
Carve it in doves and pomegranates⁴,
 And peacocks with a hundred eyes;
Work it in gold and silver grapes,
 In leaves and silver fleurs-de-lys⁵;
Because the birthday of my life
 Is come, my love is come to me.

1. List two similes used in the poem. (2 marks)
2. Choose one image from the second stanza and describe its effect. (3 marks)
3. In your own words, explain what you think the final two lines of the poem mean. (5 marks)

Total: 10 marks

¹ Halcyon = a time of ideal peace and happiness

² Dais = a low platform

³ Vair = red fur

⁴ Pomegranates = exotic fruit

⁵ Fleur-de-lys = floral Royal symbol

Entrance Examinations (14+)

2017

English

45 Minutes

All questions should be answered on the lined paper provided.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME CLEARLY AT THE TOP OF EACH SHEET YOU USE.

Spend 20 minutes on each answer and five minutes to check your work.

NAME: AGE:

PRESENT SCHOOL:

Total:	%
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Question One

Describe a place that is special to you. Write about 300 words.

(25 marks)

Question Two

The Headmaster has asked you to give a short speech to the staff at King's about what you think makes a good teacher, drawing on your past experience. Write down what you are going to say, using about 300 words.

(25 marks)

[END OF EXAMINATION]



14+ Entrance 2016

English

45 Minutes

Both questions should be answered in the spaces provided on the question paper.

Spend equal time on both of your answers.

NAME: AGE:

PRESENT SCHOOL:

Total: %
