



SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

2014

Time 1½ hours

Name:

School:

Instructions:

Answers to be written on separate sheets provided.

Please ensure that you put your name and school on each sheet.

Answer **all** questions and leave yourself ten minutes for checking through. Poor handwriting and presentation will be penalised.

Section A – Unseen Poetry

Below is a copy of Yeats' poem 'The Second Coming'. Yeats wrote this poem in the inter-war years (1921) as a comment about the social and political breakdowns that were to result in World War II. This "Second Coming" is not that of Christ but of something sinister and foreboding: war.

Read the poem carefully and then answer the questions opposite in the most detailed way you can:

The Second Coming

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere 5
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction,
While the worst are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand. 10

The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image of *Spiritus Mundi**
Troubles my sight; somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun, 15
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.

The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle, 20
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

W B Yeats

Gyre – rotating water tide/cyclone
Spiritus Mundi - Spirit of the world

Answer all questions. Marks will be allocated for exploration and analysis of ideas as well as the validity of your answers. Please write in full sentences.

1. Comment on the tone and atmosphere of the poem. How does Yeats convey this?
(4 Marks)

2. Which line in the first stanza most effectively implies that order is breaking down? Quote the line you think is the most important and explore it thoroughly, commenting on Yeats' use of language.
(4 Marks)

3. Read the following lines:

*A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,*

What is suggested about these new forces in the world through this quotation?

(5 Marks)

4. What might the "indignant desert birds" represent and why do you think this?
(4 Marks)

5. Comment on Yeats' use of symbols and images in this poem. How effective do you think these are in conveying his themes and ideas?
(8 Marks)

Section B – Writing

Remember that the marks awarded will be allocated on the accuracy and fluency of your language; the way in which you organise your thoughts; your use of an extensive range of sentence structures, vocabulary and punctuation. Above all, your writing should be engaging.

Please read through the following tasks and choose one to write about:

1. “One thing we learn from history is that we never learn anything from history” (Hegel)

Write the words for a speech to be delivered to your own year group on the theme of why we should learn from our mistakes.

(25 Marks)

or

2. Write a short story that ends with the line:

“and as I placed my shaking hands on the door knob, somewhere beyond I could hear a terrible sobbing; that was when the lights went out.”

(25 Marks)

or

3. “Relatives, not friends, have most influence on our lives.” Discuss.

(25 Marks)

or

4. Describe a childhood memory.

(25 Marks)