



**SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION**

**ENGLISH**

**2016**

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Time 1½ hours

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**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 – Reading

Read the following poem and answer the questions opposite:

### The Planners

They plan. They build. All spaces are gridded,  
Filled with permutations of possibilities.  
The buildings are in alignment with the roads  
Which meet at desired points  
Linked by bridges all hang 5  
In the grace of mathematics.  
They build and will not stop.  
Even the sea draws back  
And the skies surrender.

They erase the flaws, 10  
The blemishes of the past, knock off  
Useless blocks with dental dexterity.  
All gaps are plugged  
With gleaming gold.  
The country wears perfect rows 15  
Of shining teeth.  
Anaesthesia, amnesia, hypnosis.  
They have the means.  
They have it all so it will not hurt,  
So history is new again. 20  
The piling will not stop.  
The drilling goes right through  
The fossils of last century.

But my heart would not bleed  
Poetry. Not a single drop 25  
To stain the blueprint  
Of our past's tomorrow.

### Boey Kim Cheng

## Questions

**Please answer in full sentences and fully justify your answers; exploring and analysing the writer's techniques will be more highly rewarded than simply identifying them.**

1. "They build and will not stop." (Line 7)  
What impression does this give of the planners?  
(2 marks)
2. Do you feel the first line of this poem is effective?  
Briefly give a reason for your opinion.  
(2 marks)
3. Comment on the impact of line 17: "Anaesthesia, amnesia, hypnosis."  
What does this say about the planners and their effect on people?  
(3 marks)
4. Why do you think the speaker says in lines 24-25 that his "heart would not bleed/Poetry"?  
(3 marks)
5. Choose an image from the poem that particularly stands out to you.  
Write a concise evaluation of the use and significance of this image in the context of the whole poem.  
(5 marks)
6. How does Cheng express his ideas about city planners and their work in this poem?  
(10 marks)

**Total: 25 marks**

**Now turn over and complete Section B.**

## **Section B - Writing**

**You will be marked on the quality and accuracy of your writing.**

**Choose one of the following essay choices:**

- **Describe a childhood memory.**
- **“Relatives, not friends, have most influence on our lives.”  
Discuss.**
- **Write a story about a broken promise.**

**Total 25 Marks**