



**2017 SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION**

**ENGLISH**

Time: 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES

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:

### Registers

Out of the warm primordial cave  
of our conversations, Jack's gone.  
No more chit-chat under the blankets  
pegged over chairs and nipped in drawers.

Throughout his first five years an ear 5  
always open, at worst ajar,  
I catch myself still listening out  
for sounds of him in the sensible house

where nothing stirs but the washing machine  
which clicks and churns. I'm loosening his arms 10  
clasped round my neck, detaching myself  
from his soft protracted kiss goodbye.

Good boy, diminishing down the long  
corridors into the huge unknown  
assembly hall, each word strange, 15  
even his name on Miss Cracknell's tongue.

### Michael Laskey

*Primordial*: basic and fundamental; existing from the beginning of time

*Protracted*: lasting for a long time

## Questions

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

1. "Jack's gone." (Line 2) Where has Jack gone to?  
(2 marks)
2. How do lines 1 – 2 describe the relationship of the speaker and his son?  
(2 marks)
3. Why does the speaker still find himself "listening out" for the sounds of his son in line 7?  
(2 marks)
4. Why is the house described as "sensible" in line 8?  
(4 marks)
5. Who is Miss Cracknell in line 16?  
(1 mark)
6. What do you find interesting about the description of the setting in the last stanza?  
(4 marks)
7. How does Laskey present the feelings of the speaker in a memorable way 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 the scene in a school playground at break time.**
- **“Every child should have the opportunity to own a pet.” Discuss.**
- **Write a story entitled, “The New Beginning”.**

**Total 25 Marks**