



SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

2013

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.

Read the following poem and answer the questions opposite:

Last Lesson of the Afternoon

When will the bell ring, and end this weariness?
How long have they tugged the leash, and strained apart,
My pack of unruly hounds! I cannot start
Them again on a quarry of knowledge they hate to hunt,
I can haul them and urge them no more. 5

No longer now can I endure the brunt
Of the books that lie out on the desks; a full threescore
Of several insults of blotted pages, and scrawl
Of slovenly work that they have offered me.
I am sick, and what on earth is the good of it all? 10
What good to them or me, I cannot see!

So, shall I take
My last dear fuel of life to heap on my soul
And kindle my will to a flame that shall consume
Their dross of indifference; and take the toll 15
Of their insults in punishment? — I will not! -

I will not waste my soul and my strength for this.
What do I care for all that they do amiss!
What is the point of this teaching of mine, and of this
Learning of theirs? It all goes down the same abyss. 20

What does it matter to me, if they can write
A description of a dog, or if they can't?
What is the point? To us both, it is all my aunt!
And yet I'm supposed to care, with all my might.

I do not, and will not; they won't and they don't; and that's all! 25
I shall keep my strength for myself; they can keep theirs as well.
Why should we beat our heads against the wall
Of each other? I shall sit and wait for the bell.

D H Lawrence

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. a) What observations have you made about the speaker in the poem?
(2 Marks)
b) What language choices have led you to these conclusions?
(2 Marks)
2. What might the poet mean by the phrase "their dross of indifference"?
(2 Marks)
3. What effect does the phrase "a pack of unruly dogs" have on your understanding of the class?
(2 Marks)
4. Comment on the use of punctuation at the end of stanza three.
(3 Marks)
5. What do you think about the question: "Why should we beat our heads against the wall/Of each other?"
(2 Marks)
6. What comments do you have to make about the effect of the rhyme scheme throughout the poem?
(3 Marks)
7. Write a short commentary on the tone through the poem and consider how, through language choice, Lawrence creates atmosphere.
(4 Marks)
8. Lawrence presents the life and thoughts of a teacher at the end of a day. Evaluate the success of this poem, in your view. Make sure you refer closely to language, verse form and structure in your answer.
(5 Marks)

Total 25 Marks

Section B – Writing

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

Choose from one of the following essay choices:

- Write a reflective entry into a journal or diary imagining that you are a teacher and you have had a tough day.
- As Michael Gove prepares to change the way schools operate, write a letter to your headmaster detailing what changes you would like to see in your school and why.
- Write a description of a classroom both just before the school day starts and again at the end of the day.
- You have been asked to write a “day in the life” article for your school newspaper. Write the words for an article in which you describe a day that didn’t turn out as you expected.

Total 25 Marks