



OUNDLE

School

2015 Academic Scholarship

Preliminary Examination

English

Time Allowed: 1 hour

- Please write your answers on separate, lined paper
- Clearly mark your name at the top of each sheet of paper used
- Dictionaries are not allowed

Section A

Read the poem below carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Please note that some questions are worth more marks than others. You should spend approximately 30 minutes on this section.

Interruption to a Journey

The hare we had run over
Bounced about the road
On the springing curve
4 Of its spine.

Cornfields breathed in the darkness.
We were going through the darkness and
8 The breathing cornfields from one
Important place to another.

We broke the hare's neck
12 And made that place, for a moment,
The most important place there was,
Where a bowstring was cut
And a bow broken for ever
16 That had shot itself through so many
Darknesses and cornfields.

It was left in that landscape
20 It left us in another.

Norman MacCaig (1910-1996)

1. What impression of the hare is the poet trying to convey by his choice of words in lines 2,3 and 4? (4 marks)
2. Why do you think the poet speaks of *breathing* cornfields? (2 marks)
3. Can you distinguish any difference in the poet's use of the phrase *important place* in lines 9 and 13? (3 marks)
4. *Bowstring was cut And a bow broken forever* – can you connect this image with anything which has previously appeared in the poem? (3 marks)
5. In what different ways does the poet use the word *darkness* and why? (3 marks)
6. What does the poet mean by saying that this accident left them in *another* landscape? (3 marks)
7. How does the title relate to the rest of the poem? (2 marks)

Section B

Answer **one** of the following tasks. Marks will be given for the accuracy and sophistication of your expression as well as for your ideas. (25 marks)

- Write a descriptive piece, or part of a story titled 'The Journey'. You do not have to write a complete story.
- Write a speech to your class on the topic 'The impact that mankind is having on the planet'.
- Write a descriptive piece called 'The Incident'.

Check your work carefully