

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2024

ENGLISH A

80 minutes

Remember to write your candidate number on every sheet of answer paper used.

You must answer all questions.

Do not turn over until told to do so.

PART ONE

Read the poem slowly and carefully and then answer **ALL** the questions that follow.

When You Are Old

William Butler Yeats

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace, 5
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars, 10
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

1. What type of person is the speaker of the poem? Use evidence from the poem to support your answer. [10]
2. Who do you think Yeats' speaker is addressing when he wrote this poem? Use evidence from the poem to support your answer. [10]
3. Give one or two explanations for why you think Yeats wrote this poem. Support your explanation with evidence from the text. [15]
4. Pick out two images from this poem that you think are particularly powerful. Explain why you chose these images and how they illustrate the poem's meaning. [15]

PART TWO: General

IMPORTANT: Begin this question on a new sheet of paper.

‘The most profound pleasure of rereading derives from the thrill of rediscovering a past self, a self that we may have thought lost.’

Of the books you have read, which do you think your future self would get the greatest thrill from rereading and why?

[50]

END OF PAPER