



**OUNDLE**

School

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**EXAMINATION PAPER**  
**Non-Common Entrance 2023**  
**Fourth Form entry**

**English**

**Time allowed: 1 hour**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions**

- Dictionaries are not allowed.
- Answer on lined paper. Write your name clearly at the top of each sheet of paper that you use.
- Answer ALL the questions in Section A. Choose ONE question from Section B. You should divide your time equally between both sections.
- You are expected to write clearly and accurately throughout each of your answers. You should leave some time towards the end of the examination to check your work carefully.
- The maximum number of marks for this paper is 50.

## SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

**You should spend 30 minutes on this section**

Read Ted Hughes's poem 'To Paint a Water Lily', which describes what is and what is not seen around a pond, and then answer the questions that follow. Leave yourself enough time to answer the last question in full detail.

### *To Paint a Water Lily*

A green level of lily leaves  
Roofs the pond's chamber and paves

The flies' furious arena: study  
These, the two minds of this lady.

First observe the air's dragonfly 5  
That eats meat, that bullets by

Or stands in space to take aim;  
Others as dangerous comb the hum

Under the trees. There are battle-shouts  
And death-cries everywhere hereabouts 10

But inaudible, so the eyes praise  
To see the colours of these flies

Rainbow their arcs, spark, or settle  
Cooling like beads of molten metal

Through the spectrum. Think what worse 15  
Is the pond-bed's matter of course;

Prehistoric bedragoned times  
Crawl that darkness with Latin names,

Have evolved no improvements there,  
Jaws for heads, the set stare, 20

Ignorant of age as of hour –  
Now paint the long-necked lily-flower

Which, deep in both worlds, can be still  
As a painting, trembling hardly at all

Though the dragonfly alight, 25  
Whatever horror nudge her root.

Ted Hughes (1930-1998)

## Questions

1. Look at lines 5-15. How effective do you find the description of the dragonflies here? Support your answer with close reference to the text. [5 marks]
2. Find an example of metaphor in the poem. How does the poet use this to create a clearer picture of the thing he is describing? [3 marks]
3. Comment on the poet's use of structure in this poem. [4 marks]
4. Look at lines 17-21. What picture does the poet paint of life at the bottom of the pond? [5 marks]
5. Twice in the poem the poet breaks away from the description of pond life to describe someone painting a picture of the pond. What do you think the purpose of this is and how might it fit with what you think the poem is about as a whole? [8 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

## SECTION B: COMPREHENSION

### You should spend 30 minutes on this section

Answer ONE of the following questions. You are reminded of the importance of clear and accurate written English and of careful presentation in your answer. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Describe a natural scene (a pond, a river, a woodland, a field, etc.) in such a way that creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind. Do not attempt to write a poem. [25 marks]

OR

2. 'Trembling hardly at all ...' Write a story that begins with these words. [25 marks]

OR

3. 'What's real and what you see.' Use this title as the basis for EITHER:

(a) an article in a teenage magazine

OR

(b) a speech to present to your school assembly.

[25 marks]

**END OF PAPER**