



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

THE CHALLENGE 2022

ENGLISH

Wednesday 27 April 2022

You have TWO HOURS for this paper.

- The paper is divided into Sections A, B, C and D.
- You should spend about 10 minutes on Section A, 30 minutes on Section B, 30 minutes of Section C and 50 minutes on Section D.
- Write in full sentences, unless instructed otherwise by a specific question. The quality of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will be considered throughout the paper.
- Spend any remaining time at the end of the test checking your work carefully.
- Please write in black or blue ink. Answer all questions in the answer sheet provided – do not answer in the exam paper.

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Section A – 10mins – 10 marks

1.

‘Some glory in their birth, some in their skill.’

Rewrite this sentence using:

- a. A past tense (1)
- b. The continuous present tense (1)
- c. A conditional tense (1)

2.

‘I learned that reading this worked well.’

Rewrite the sentence above so that:

- a. The noun is the first word (1)
- b. The noun is the third word (1)
- c. The noun is the fifth word (1)
- d. The noun is the final word (1)

You must not change any words in the sentence and must use all of them in your sentence. You may add or delete punctuation marks if you wish.

You may alter the meaning of the sentence if necessary.

3.

‘How I faint when I of you do write.’

- a. Swap the subject and object in the sentence above. You may change, add, or delete words if you wish. (1)
- b. Rewrite the sentence above in the passive voice. You may change any words that you need to. (1)
- c. By adding one word to the sentence above, make it a line of iambic pentameter. (1)

Section B – 30mins – 20 marks

Nineteen years, three months, and one week ago, I was a troop carrier orbiting the planet Shis'urna. Troop carriers are the most massive of Radchaai ships, sixteen decks stacked one on top of the other. Command, Administrative, Medical, Hydroponics, Engineering, Central Access, and a deck for each decade, living and working space for my officers, whose every breath, every twitch of every muscle, was known to me.

Troop carriers rarely move. I sat, as I had sat for most of my two-thousand year existence on one system or another, feeling the bitter chill of vacuum outside my hull, the planet Shis'urna like a blue-and-white class counter, its orbiting station coming and going around, a steady stream of ships arriving, docking, undocking, departing toward one or the other of the buoy- and beacon-surrounded gates. From my vantage the boundaries of Shis'urna's various nations and territories weren't visible, though on its night side the planet's cities glowed bright here and there, and webs of roads between them, where they'd been restored since the annexation.

I felt and heard—though didn't always see—the presence of my companion ships—the smaller, faster Swords and Mercies, and most numerous at that time, the Justices, troop carriers like me. The oldest of us was nearly three thousand years old. We had known each other for a long time, and by now we had little to say to each other that had not already been said many times. We were, by and large, companionably silent, not counting routine communications.

As I still had ancillaries, I could be in more than one place at a time. I was also on detached duty in the city of Ors, on the planet Shis'urna, under the command of Esk Decade Lieutenant Awn.

1. Explain who the narrator of this passage is. (2)

2. What pronoun would you choose to describe the narrator of this passage? Explain your answer. (2)

3. Explain what these words mean in the context of this passage:
 - a. 'Annexation' (2)
 - b. 'Ancillaries' (2)

4. 'The narrator of this passage sounds almost human—but not quite.'

With close reference to the language of this passage, make a case to support this view. (6)

5. 'Artificial intelligence will fundamentally change human language.'

Write a balanced response to this statement, articulating your own view. (6)

Section C - 30mins - 20 marks

This extract is taken from a play.

Lorenzo:

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here will we sit and let the sounds of music
Creep in our ears; soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony.

5

Sit, Jessica: look how the floor of heaven
Is thick inlaid with patens¹ of bright gold;
There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st
But in his motion like an angel sings,

10

Still choring to the young-eyed cherubins;²
Such harmony is in immortal souls;
But, whilst this muddy vesture³ of decay
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.

¹ Small plates used in church services.

² Angels in the form of young children.

³ Clothing or dress.

1. Who is Lorenzo talking to? (1)
2. What time of day is it? (1)
3. Where are the two characters sitting? (1)
4. What can the two characters hear? (1)
5. Explain what is interesting about what the characters can hear. (2)
6. What might Lorenzo's motives be for describing the sky in this way? (2)
7. What is 'this muddy vesture of decay'? Explain your answer. (2)
8. What effect does 'this muddy vesture of decay' have on the sounds Lorenzo can hear – and why? (2)
9. Compose a short reply to this speech, written by the person Lorenzo is talking to. In it, you should:
 - a. Give your character's view on Lorenzo's description of the sky (2)
 - b. Respond to Lorenzo's reasons for describing the sky in this way (2)
 - c. Offer an alternative metaphorical description of the sky, which differs from Lorenzo's (4)

Your speech should include no more than **four** sentences.

You do **not** need to write in iambic pentameter and will **not** gain extra credit for doing so.

Section D – 50mins – 30 marks

I wer ready for any thing and wivvering all over with it. That place wer a Power place you cud feal it all roun you. *Smel* the Power even with the dog pong. Breave it in to your arms and legs. I cud feal a terning and a rushing in it so strong and Lissener the same. Lissening to our foot steps eckoing in that ringing dark.

5 We seen a feabl shaky glimmer like from a far off candl it wer jus a nuff so we cud see the edges of the steps. Slow and easy slow and easy. From there on it wer only the black leader and his 2 nexters with us the others ternt roun I gest they wer poasting ther selfs back at the top of the steps I fealt sorry for any body coming that way on our foller. Wunnering at the same time why the dogs hadnt give us warning of no lookouts yet. Lissener said, 'The out poasts dont keap sharp

10 they dont think no 1s ever coming in on them.'

From there on it wer mostly cavit in rubbl we had to sqweaze thru there it opent up big you cudve lissent the diffrents even without looking. The lite wer coming from behyndt some girt mouns of rubbl unner where the over head ben barmt out. It cudntve been no moren a cuppl of candls or lanterns jus a feabl glimmer and the jynt shadders wivvering on the stanning walls and broakin

15 stoans and rubbl and what ever over head we lef. The jynt shadders wer from girt machines o they we guvner big things and crouching broakin but not dead they cudnt dy there were too much Power in them. Where they were stanning you cud hear the sea beyont us in the dark. Breaving and sying it we like them machines were breaving and sying in ther sleap.

Lissener hispert me, 'What is it?' Be they terning be they moving?

20 I hispert back, 'Its broakin machines they aint moving.' It wernt nothing like when you dig up old rottin machines out of the groun these wer in ther parper working place nor nothing rottin they wer some kind of iron dint rot it wer all shyning all catching that shaky glimmer. Some of them ther shels ben broak open you cud see girt shyning weals like jynt mil stoans only smooov. Id always usit the word *shyning* same as any 1 else myt. The sun is shyning or the moon is shyning.

25 Youwl see a shyning on the water or a womans hair. Tears begun streaming down my face and my froat akit.

Lissener hispert, 'Whats the matter?'

I hispert back, 'O what we ben! And what we come to!'

Reading (15)

1. Rewrite the following phrases in modern English:
 - a. Wivvering all over with it, *line 1* (1)
 - b. Jynt shadders, *line 14* (1)
 - c. The over head ben barmt out, *line 13* (1)
2. What is the 'Power place' that the narrator and Lissener are exploring? Present and explain two pieces of evidence to support your view. (4)
3. Read paragraph 2. What relationship between dogs and humans is suggested here? [2]
4. What is the effect of the simile 'girt shyning weals like jynt mil stoans only smooov'? [2]
5. Explain why, in your opinion, 'Tears begun streaming down [the narrator's] face'. [4]

Writing (15)

Choose **one** of the following writing tasks:

EITHER

6. Write the next few paragraphs of the story which should, in your view, follow the scene above. You should:
 - a. Aim to imitate the language of the extract as accurately as possible.
 - b. Ensure that you include both the narrator and Lissener in your story.
 - c. Develop the themes and ideas depicted in this passage.
 - d. Write no more than four paragraphs.

OR

7. 'O what we ben! And what we come to!'

Use this quotation as the title and inspiration for a short story.