



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL THE CHALLENGE 2023

ENGLISH

Wednesday 26 April 2023

You have TWO HOURS for this paper.

- The paper is divided into Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- You should spend about 20 minutes on Section 1, 40 minutes on Section 2, 30 minutes on Section 3 and 30 minutes on Section 4.
- 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.

BLANK PAGE

Section 1 – Lyric (20mins)

Read the song lyrics below, then answer the questions which follow.

5 I'm forever blowing bubbles,
Pretty bubbles in the air,
They fly so high,
They reach the sky,
Then like my dreams,
They fade and die.
10 Fortune's always hiding,
I've looked everywhere,
I'm forever blowing bubbles,
Pretty bubbles in the air.

This song, written in 1920, is considered the anthem of West Ham United Football Club. It was already a popular song before it was adopted by West Ham supporters in the 1940s.

Explain:

1. **The meaning of the song's words. [5]**
2. **Why, in your judgement, it might have become the club's anthem. [5]**

This second verse for the song was written using ChatGPT.

5

I see myself within them,
As fragile as can be,
And though they may burst,
My spirit's free.
For in each bubble,
There's hope and possibility,
I'm forever blowing bubbles,
And chasing my destiny.

Explain:

3. **Ways in which the second verse builds upon the first verse. [5]**
4. **Ways in which the second verse fails to build upon the first verse. [5]**

Section 2 – Narrative (40mins)

Read this passage from a novel, then answer the questions which follow.

This passage describes a young player's behaviour at a baseball scouting session, observed by Schwartz.

The kid glided in front of the first grounder, accepted the ball into his glove with a lazy grace, pivoted, and threw to first. Though his motion was languid, the ball seemed to explode off his fingertips, to gather speed as it crossed the diamond. It smacked the pocket of the first baseman's glove with the sound of a gun going off. The coach hit another, a bit harder: same easy grace, same gunshot report.

5 Schwartz, intrigued, sat up a little. The first baseman caught each throw at sternum height, never needing to move his glove, and dropped the balls into the plastic bucket at his feet.

The coach hit balls harder and farther afield — up the middle, deep in the hole. The kid tracked them down. Several times Schwartz felt sure he would need to slide or dive, or that the ball was flat-out unreachable, but he got to each one with a beat to spare. He didn't seem to move faster than any

10 other decent shortstop would, and yet he arrived instantly, impeccably, as if he had some foreknowledge of where the ball was headed. Or as if time slowed down for him alone.

After each ball, he dropped back into his feline crouch, the fingertips of his small glove scraping the cooked earth. He barehanded a slow roller and fired to first on a dead run. He leaped high to snag a tailing line drive. Sweat poured down his cheeks as he sliced through the soup-thick air. Even at full

15 speed his face looked bland, almost bored, like that of a virtuoso practising scales. He weighed a buck and a quarter, maximum. Where the kid's thoughts were — whether he was having any thoughts at all, behind that blank look — Schwartz couldn't say. He remembered a line from Professor Eglantine's poetry class: Expressionless, expresses God.

5. **How, and with what effects, does the author convey the kid's ability as a shortstop – and Schwartz's reaction to it? [20]**
6. **Imagine that Schwartz decided to speak to the kid after the scouting session. Spend twenty minutes writing the next section of the story, imitating the author's style as far as possible. [20]**

Section 3 – Drama (30mins)

Read this extract from a play, then answer the questions which follow.

LE BEAU

Monsieur the challenger, the princesses call for you.

ORLANDO

I attend them with all respect and duty.

5

ROSALIND

Young man, have you challenged Charles the wrestler?

ORLANDO

No, fair princess; he is the general challenger: I come but in, as others do, to try with him the strength of my youth.

10

CELIA

Young gentleman, your spirits are too bold for your years. You have seen cruel proof of this man's strength: if you saw yourself with your eyes or knew yourself with your judgment, the fear of your adventure would counsel you to a more equal enterprise. We pray you, for your own sake, to embrace your own safety and give over this attempt.

15

ROSALIND

Do, young sir; your reputation shall not therefore be misprised: we will make it our suit to the duke that the wrestling might not go forward.

20

ORLANDO

I beseech you, punish me not with your hard thoughts; wherein I confess me much guilty, to deny so fair and excellent ladies any thing. But let your fair eyes and gentle wishes go with me to my trial: wherein if I be foiled, there is but one shamed that was never gracious; if killed, but one dead that was willing to be so: I shall do my friends no wrong, for I have none to lament me, the world no injury, for in it I have nothing; only in the world I fill up a place, which may be better supplied when I have made it empty.

25

30

ROSALIND

The little strength that I have, I would it were with you.

35

CELIA

And mine, to eke out hers.

7. **Why does Celia advise Orlando not to fight? [2]**

8. **How does Rosalind support Celia's argument? [2]**

9. **Rewrite Orlando's speech from lines 24-34 in modern English, preserving his ideas but making plain his meaning. [10]**

10. **Explain the effects of Orlando's speech on Rosalind and Celia, and why the speech produces those effects, in your own words. [4]**

11. **When this play was first published in 1623, it was placed in one of the following categories:**
 - a. **Comedies**
 - b. **Tragedies**
 - c. **Histories**

By analysing the passage closely, identify the category into which this play was most likely to be placed. [12]

Section 4 – Writing (30mins)

Examine the image below, then complete ONE of the writing tasks which follows.

This image from 1636 depicts the Cotswold Games, a celebration of games and sports which likely began in 1612 and was held each spring near Chipping Campden in Oxfordshire until 1852.



Up to 10 marks in this section will be awarded for the quality and accuracy of your spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

EITHER

12. Write a short story which uses this image, or a part of this image, as its starting point. [30]

OR

13. It is 1637. Because of an incident at last year's event, a local landowner has refused permission for this year's event to take place on their property. Write a letter to the landowner, persuading them to change their mind. [30]