OUNDLE

School

2017 Junior Entrance Examination

English

Time allowed: **60 minutes**

Instructions

- *Please write your name at the top of each piece of paper you use*
- *Answer as many questions as you can*
- *There are two 30 minute Sections: Section A and Section B – please use a new sheet of paper for each section.*
- *Answer in full sentences unless asked to do otherwise*
- *Accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be evaluated although there is not a specific mark allocation for these elements*
- *While accuracy is desirable throughout the paper, it will be particularly noted in Section B*
- *Remember to leave yourself enough time to check your work*
- *Dictionaries are not allowed*

Good Luck

Section A

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions which follow.

Please write your answers <u>on the lined paper provided</u> (not the Question Paper).

Answers should be <u>numbered</u> and <u>written in full sentences</u> unless otherwise instructed.

The number in brackets after each question shows the number of marks for the question.

London Bridge (set in 1415)

In front of her the river shimmered in the sunlight of a bright spring morning. It looked like a big lake shut in on three sides by banks of houses. On the north side the buildings all around her crowded down to the water's edge, ending in a broken line of wharfs and warehouses and a jumble of roofs. Opposite, on the south bank, there were gardens amongst the houses and a background of trees to mark the open country.

Between the north bank and the south, like a great wall across the river, lay London Bridge which had a street of houses and shops all the way along it, and, into the bargain, a gatehouse and a drawbridge and even a chapel with pinnacles and turrets, all built upon its massive arches and buttresses.

The tide was at the flood and the water lay high against the Bridge, so calm that a second Bankside and a second Bridge were reflected upside down upon its surface. But soon the tide would turn and then the river would rush back seawards through the narrow arches, roaring and groaning like an imprisoned beast sucking into rapids and whirlpools anything that came in its way.

Nan knew the sound of it well, for their old nurse, Goody Doubleday, lived on the Bridge and sometimes, for a great treat, she was allowed to stay the night with Goody. She loved to lie cosily in bed listening to the noises that the water made as it gushed underneath the house.

But at this moment everything seemed very quiet. The little ships tied up by the wharfs all lay in idleness, their brightly coloured sails furled. No work was being done, no cargoes loaded or unloaded for it was Ascension Day, a holy day, and the few people to be seen were either fishing from the quays or lounging about and gossiping. Even the clatter of the streets was stilled. She could hear quite clearly the little noises which as a rule were lost in the grinding of heavy wheels on cobblestones: there was a solitary horseman clip-clopping along Thames Street and the doves were cooing in Master Whittington's garden half way up the hill.

Suddenly, from far off a new sound pierced the stillness, the clear shrill note of a trumpet. …

From : "Ring Out Bow Bells" by Cynthia Harnett

Questions for Section A

1) How does the river appear to the girl Nan in the first sentence of this passage? (1)

2) The writer uses a simile to describe the river in line 2. What is the simile and why is it effective? (2)

3) What differences are there between the North and South sides of the river? (3)

4) Reading paragraph 2, what do you learn about the appearance and character of London Bridge? (4)

5) Which words in paragraph 2 mean
   A) spires
   B) towers
   C) supports? (3)

6) Why does the girl see two Banksides and two London Bridges? (2)

7) In your own words, explain what would happen when the tide turned. (3)

8) Where does Goody live and why does Nan like to stay with her? (2)

9) Explain the meaning of four of the following in the context of the passage:
   A) banks of houses (line 2)
   B) a jumble of roofs (line 4)
   C) a broken line of wharfs and warehouses (line 3)
   D) massive arches and buttresses (line 9)
   E) gushed (line 17)
   F) lay in idleness (line 18/19)
   G) as a rule (line 22) (4)

10) Explain why it was peaceful near the river on this particular morning. In your answer, give examples from the passage which show how the riverside is being presented as still and quiet. (6)

Total 30 marks

Section B

Choose <u>one</u> of the following options

EITHER

A) Continue the story from the point where it leaves off using as your first sentence the last one of the passage:
"Suddenly, from far off a new sound pierced the stillness, the clear shrill note of a trumpet. …"

OR

B) Nan is looking at a scene which is unusually still because it is a holy-day or holiday. Imagine you are Nan looking at the same scene on a busy working day and describe that view of London Bridge and its surroundings. Remember you are in 1415 so there are no cars!

OR

C) In the passage, we were looking back at Nan's world of 1415 where life is different to the 21st Century.
Write a story in which you go to stay with a friend or a relation who lives in a very different context or environment from your own or has a very different lifestyle. Imagine how disconcerting or strange you might find the experience and try to bring this into the story. (For example: your relation might have no electronic devices / might live on a remote island with no electricity / might be a hill farmer / might be an aid worker helping refugees …use your imagination!)

Total 30 marks