

ENGLISH PAPER

TIME ALLOWED—2 HOURS

Answer the questions in the order in which they appear.

1. Read very carefully each of the passages below. Then, for each passage in turn, give in your own words all that you think the writer says. It is very important that you should do this quite freely and in your own manner; no marks will be given for merely making slight alterations in the wording of the passages as printed here.

(a) Gratiano speaks an infinite deal of nothing, more than any man in all Venice. His reasons are as two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff: you shall seek all day ere you find them: and when you have them, they are not worth the search.

(b) Ill fares the traveller now, and he that stalks
In ponderous boots beside his reeking team.
The wain goes heavily, impeded sore
By congregated loads adhering close
To the clogged wheels; and in its sluggish pace,
Noiseless, appears a moving hill of snow.

(c) Now dawn broke like sudden good news; the sea caught fire from the sky and became diamond drops and emerald gulfs: and every stem and froud and rock in the island quivered and leaped into life. It was as if a great orchestra had swept into some superb opening movement.

(d) Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
'This is my own, my native land!'
Whose heart has ne'er within him burned
As home his footsteps he hath turned
From wandering in a foreign strand?

2. Write at least twenty-five lines on one of the following subjects:

- (a) A winter evening and how to spend it.
- (b) 'My Life—by a Caterpillar.'
- (c) 'Where I should like to live, and why.'
- (d) You and your friend have been so busy collecting shells on the shore in the evening that you have not noticed the incoming tide. Suddenly you see that you are cut off by the rising water, and, turning round, you can see no way up the steep, black cliffs. Tell the story of what happens, in your own words.
- (e) A story ending '... but it was worth it!'

TURN OVER.

3. Read each of the following passages, paying particular attention to the words in italics. Then answer the question beneath each passage.

- (a) He was gay, he was witty,
his speaking voice
Sounded as if a lurge *Rolls-Royce*
had passed along.

Describe what sort of voice he had as clearly as you can, and explain how the mention of the *Rolls-Royce* helps you.

- (b) The Assyrian came down *like a wolf on the fold*
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold.

Describe how the Assyrian army advanced on their foes, and explain how the comparison with the wolf helps you.

- (c) *Like a rocket shot to a ship ashore*
The lean red bolt of his body tore.

Describe how the fox was running.

4. (a) What do you think of each of the following statements? Can you improve upon each one?

- (i) A table is a wooden square with four legs.
(ii) A pen is the instrument you write with.
(iii) Poetry is a story that rhymes.

(b) Rewrite the following verses, putting in words that will rhyme, fit the rhythm, and make sense:

- (i) Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the ———
And ——— about the woodland ride
Wearing ——— for Eastertide.
- (ii) Now of my ——— years and ten
—— will not come again.
And take from seventy springs a ———
It only ——— me fifty more.
- (iii) And since to look at things in ———
Fifty ——— are little room,
About the ——— I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

5. Write an imaginary conversation between yourself and Sir Francis Drake about either **acrobats** or **wireless**.