



# TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

Test for Entrance into Year 9 or 10

**English**

Time allowed : 90 minutes

Total marks : 50

**Answer ALL the questions on the lined paper provided**  
Dictionaries may **NOT** be used.

**You are advised to spend 45 minutes on each section.**

## Section A: Poetry comprehension

Read the poem below carefully and then answer all the questions which follow.

### **Seed** by Paula Meehan

The first warm day of spring  
and I step out into the garden from the gloom  
of a house where hope had died  
to tally the storm damage, to seek what may  
have survived. And finding some forgotten  
lupins\* I'd sown from seed last autumn  
holding in their fingers a raindrop each  
like a peace offering, or a promise,  
I am suddenly grateful and would  
offer a prayer if I believed in God.  
But not believing, I bless the power of seed,  
its casual, useful persistence,  
and bless the power of sun,  
its conspiracy with the underground,  
and thank my stars the winter's ended.

\* lupins: tall, colourful flowers

1. There are three quotations underlined; explain how in each one the poet creates a powerful effect through the specific language used. [9]
2. Choose two more phrases or images from this poem and explain their effects. [6]
3. What do you think is the poet's message about 'the power of seed' as an alternative to belief in God?  
Use quotations to help back up your points. You may refer to quotations you have already discussed in previous answers. [5]
4. What does this poem make you feel – hope, wonder, interest in nature or something else?  
Explain your feelings carefully and in detail using quotations from the poem to help back up your points. You may refer to quotations you have already discussed in previous answers. [5]

**Total for Section A: 25 marks**

## Section B: Creative writing

Write a creative piece of fiction on **ONE** of the titles below.

**25 marks are available for this question.**

1. The view from the tower.

**or**

2. The yellow box

**or**

3. The car on the beach.

**or**

4. 'I am not who I am.'

[25]

**END OF PAPER**