DULWICH COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1619

Upper School Entrance Examinations
Sample Paper
English Literature

Your last name	
Your first name	
Date of birth	
Current School	

Time allowed for this paper: **45 minutes**

Upper School Entrance Paper

ENGLISH LITERATURE

The purpose of this examination is to provide you with an opportunity to show literary understanding. There are no 'correct' answers and this is not a test of purely factual knowledge.

Analysis is more important than summary.

Technical accuracy will be assessed in addition to interpretative skills.

Using quotation to support your points, write about the poem adjacent in any way you consider appropriate. You might wish to comment on areas such as:

- subject matter and theme;
- language;
- mood and imagery;
- the structure and form of the poem.

Mirror

I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
Whatever you see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
I am not cruel, only truthful –
The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
I think it is a part of my heart. But it flickers.
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.

Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,
Searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.
I see her back, and reflect it faithfully.
She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.
I am important to her. She comes and goes.
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.

Sylvia Plath (1932-1963)