



St Mary's School  
CAMBRIDGE

# Lower Sixth English Literature Sample Entrance Examination

Time allowed: 60 minutes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS :

- Answer all questions
- Dictionaries or reference materials are forbidden

## A level English Literature

### Section A

#### Spend 35-40 minutes on this section.

Read D.H.Lawrence's 'Storm in the Black Forest' and then either write an essay, analysing the poem, or answer the questions that follow the poem. It may be helpful to read the questions first as they are designed to help you understand the poem.

#### Storm in the Black Forest

Now it is almost night, from the bronzy soft sky  
jugful after jugful of pure white liquid fire, bright white  
tipples over and spills down,  
and is gone  
and gold-bronze flutters beat through the thick upper air.

And as the electric liquid pours out, sometimes  
a still brighter white snake wriggles among it, spilled  
and tumbling wriggling down the sky:  
and then the heavens cackle with uncouth sounds.

And the rain won't come, the rain refuses to come!

This is the electricity that man is supposed to have mastered  
Chained, subjugated to his own use!

supposed to!

- 1 What impression of the storm does Lawrence create in the first verse and how does his choice of words create this impression? You should quote phrases and words you find particularly effective and comment on the impact of various devices he uses.
- 2 In the second verse there is a contrast between the visual effects of the storm and the sounds. Analyse the images created here and comment on how he evokes a sense of the sound.
- 3 What is the effect of having the line about the rain standing on its own? Consider also the impact of the word 'refuses'.
- 4 Explain what is meant by  
'This is the electricity that man is supposed to have mastered  
Chained, subjugated to his own use.'  
In your answer make clear what you understand by 'subjugated'.
- 5 The poem ends with the repetition of the phrase 'supposed to'. What is the tone of the ending, do you feel? What comment is Lawrence making?
- 6 Look at the structure of the poem, the way it is laid out on the page, where lines are long or short, where verses are long or short. Comment on how this fits (or doesn't fit) with the subject of the poem and pick out any particular examples which you find interesting, making clear why you find them effective.

- 7 If there is anything else about the poem which interests you, comment on it. (If you feel you have said everything you wish to, then that is fine.)

**Section B**

**Spend 20-25 minutes on this section.**

'Literature is about life.' 'Literature lets you escape from the world for a while.'

Consider both these points of view, using your own reading of novels, plays and poetry to support your points. You should refer to two texts in detail as part of your answer, analysing whether your reading of them supports the first or the second view – or a mixture of the two views. In your conclusion give your own view of the effect of literature on you.