

SHERBORNE SCHOOL

ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION 1965

English

(1½ hours)

Answer all three questions. They carry equal marks

OVERLOOKING THE RIVER STOUR

The swallows flew in the curves of an eight
Above the river-gleam
In the wet June's last beam:
Like little crossbows animate
The swallows flew in the curves of an eight
Above the river-gleam.

Planing up shavings of crystal spray
A moor-hen darted out
From the bank thereabout,
And through the stream-shine ripped her way;
Planing up shavings of crystal spray
A moor-hen darted out.

Closed were the king-cups; and the mead
Dripped in monotonous green,
Though the day's morning sheen
Had shown it, golden and honeybee'd;
Closed were the king-cups; and the mead
Dripped in monotonous green.

And never I turned my head, alack,
While these things met my gaze
Through the pane's drop-drenched glaze,
To see the more behind my back . . .
O never I turned, but let, alack,
These less things hold my gaze!

1. (a) Describe in about half a page the scene and situation presented in this poem. Do not invent, but make up your picture from the hints and details given in the poem, e.g. that it is June.
(b) Say in about half a page what seem *to you* the most pleasing and interesting points about the way the poet describes his subject. The choice of words, rhythm, and sequence of stanzas might provide a starting point.
2. In a debate you have been supporting one of the arguments below, and are now given a final two minutes to reduce the force of your opponents' arguments and to restate the most telling ones of your own. Write out your speech in a page or less.
 - (a) Britain should remain outside Europe.
 - (b) Clever children and ordinary children should all go to school together.
 - (c) Britain should not attempt to land a man on the moon.
 - (d) Foreigners should not be allowed to immigrate to England.You need not necessarily agree with the arguments you put forward but must nevertheless try to make them as convincing as possible.
3. The story consists of an over emotional girl, Grace Melbury, and her father who is continuously guiding and misguiding her, but always with the best of intentions. Grace has an excellent education at her father's expense, and so she, encouraged by her father decides not to marry Giles Winterbourne, a noble and honest woodman, whose place is quickly filled by the rather too gallant Dr. Fitzpiers, who before marrying, has an affair with a country girl, and after has one with the seductive Mrs. Charmond. Naturally Grace and Fitzpiers separate, during which Giles dies for Grace and Mrs. Charmond is shot on the Continent by a jealous lover. The loss of these true loves unites the Fitzpiers, again, and for ever.

This is an ill-written synopsis of a novel. Rewrite it in better English, using roughly the same number of words.