

COMMON EXAMINATION FOR
ENTRANCE TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE, DARTMOUTH.

[Note (to be read out by the Invigilator).—Throughout the examination, importance will be attached to correct English, tidiness, spelling, punctuation and good writing.]

SUBJECT—ENGLISH.

PAPER A.

[45 minutes.]

Compulsory for all Candidates.

[Note.—(To be read out by the Invigilator.) You are expected to try all the questions and are advised not to spend more than half the time on Question III.]

I. These lines come from a poem about a fox-hunt. Read them carefully and then answer the questions which follow :

- They saw the water snaking slim
Ahead, like silver ; they could see
(Each man) his pollard willow-tree
Firming the bank ; they felt their horses
5 Catch the gleam's hint and gather forces ;
They heard the men behind draw near.
Each horse was trembling as a spear
Trembles in hand when tense to hurl.
They saw the brimmed brook's eddies curl ;
10 The willow-roots like water-snakes ;
The beaten holes the ratten makes.
They heard the water's rush ; they heard
Hugh Colway's mare come like a bird ;
A faint cry from the hounds ahead,
15 Then saddle strain, the bright hooves' tread,
Quick words, the splash of mud, the launch,
The sick hope that the bank be staunch,
Then Souse, with Souse to left and right.

[P. T. O.]

(a) Explain as clearly as you can what the words 'snaking slim' (line 1) mean.

(b) Where did each horseman choose to jump the stream? And why did he choose that place?

(c) Which line states most clearly that the horses were excited because they knew the jump was coming near?

(d) Was the stream full and fast-flowing or low and flowing slowly? Which words help you to answer this question? (There are at least three.)

(e) Did all the horsemen clear the stream? Give a reason for your answer.

II. (1) Read the following passage :—

"He stole down a lane, where as yet no people were stirring, and crept along, leaning on his staff, till he came to the eastern gate, at the back of the city, which the Greeks never attacked."

(a) Find in this passage three dependent clauses, write them down, and state what each clause does.

(b) What parts of speech are 'down,' 'along,' and 'leaning'?

(2) Explain why the following corrections are necessary:

(a) "This is for you and I" *should be* "This is for you and me."

(b) "Rushing into the room the light went out" *should be* "As he rushed into the room the light went out."

III. Write two or three paragraphs—altogether between 100 and 200 words—on **one** of the following subjects :—

(a) The uniforms of our fighting services.

(b) Fishing.

(c) A village church.

(d) An orchestra.