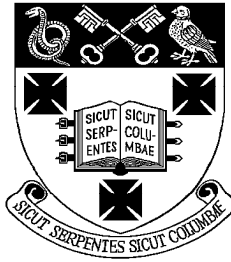


RADLEY COLLEGE
Entrance Scholarships



ENGLISH II

Wednesday 6th March 2002

Time allowed – 1 1/2 hours

The paper consists of one question only, worth 100 marks.

*You should spend at least **15-20 minutes** reading the material very carefully and making notes before writing your answer.*

*Concise, clear **well-written** answers will gain the highest marks.*

Compare and contrast these two poems both of which tackle the issue of poverty and hardship, and both of which are written from the point of view of a child.

In your answer you should discuss particular words and phrases from each poem.

You might like to consider the following points, perhaps writing a paragraph on each:

the way poverty, and the life of a chimney-sweep, is described in each poem

the attitudes to God and religion expressed in each poem

the way in which the poems relate to one another

whether either poem criticises, or suggests an alternative to, the viewpoint of the speaker

your own thoughts on the issue.

The Chimney-Sweeper

When my mother died I was very young,
And my father sold me while yet my tongue
Could scarcely cry, 'weep weep weep weep'.
So your chimneys I sweep and in soot I sleep.

There's little Tom Dacre, who cried when his head,
That curled like a lamb's back, was shaved, so I said:
'Hush Tom, never mind it, for when your head's bare,
You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair.'

And so he was quiet, and that every night,
As Tom was a-sleeping, he had such a sight:
That thousands of sweepers, Dick, Joe, Ned and Jack,
Were all of them locked up in coffins of black,

And by came an angel who had a bright key,
And he opened the coffins and set them all free.
Then down a green plain leaping, laughing they run,
And wash in a river and shine in the sun.

Then naked and white, all their bags left behind,
They rise up on clouds and sport in the wind.
And the angel told Tom if he'd be a good boy,
He'd have God for his father and never want joy.

And so Tom awoke, and we rose in the dark,
And got with our brushes and bags to work.
Though the morning was cold, Tom was happy and warm
So if all do their duty, they need not fear harm.

William Blake, Songs of Experience, 1789

The Chimney-Sweeper

A little black thing among the snow
Crying 'weep, weep' in notes of woe!
'Where are thy father and mother? Say!'
'They are both gone up to the church to pray

'Because I was happy upon the heath,
And smiled among the winter's snow,
They clothed me in the clothes of death,
And taught me to sing the notes of woe.

'And because I am happy and dance and sing,
They think they have done me no injury,
And are gone to praise God and his priest and king,
Who make up a heaven of our misery.'

William Blake, Songs of Experience, 1793

A reminder

In your answer you should discuss particular words and phrases from each poem.

You might like to consider the following points, perhaps writing a paragraph on each:

the way poverty, and the life of a chimney-sweep, is described in each poem

the attitudes to God and religion expressed in each poem

the way in which the poems relate to one another

whether either poem criticises, or suggests an alternative to, the viewpoint of the speaker

your own thoughts on the issue.