



OUNDLE

School

Junior Entrance and Scholarship Examination 2009

ENGLISH

Time allowed: **1 hour**

Instructions:

- *Answer as many questions as you can*
- *Answer in full sentences*
- *Remember to leave yourself enough time to check your work*

Good luck!

Section A

Spend 35 minutes on this section

Read through the following passage and answer the questions that follow

This passage is adapted from Far From the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy. It was written in 1874.

Gabriel Oak is a shepherd and is living in a hut on a hillside. The previous evening he had overheard a daughter and her mother who had come to a nearby cowshed to milk the cows . The young girl had lost her hat in the wind. The next day he catches sight of the girl again.

The sluggish day began to break and Gabriel Oak went again to the wood . Lingered and musing there, he heard the steps of a horse at the foot of the hill. Soon there appeared in view an auburn pony with a girl on its back, ascending by the path. As she came past the cowshed he realised she was the young woman of the night before.

5 Gabriel instantly thought of the hat she had mentioned as having lost in the wind; possibly she had come to look for it. He hastily scanned the ditch and after walking about ten yards along it found the hat among the leaves. Gabriel took it in his hand and returned to his hut. Inside he sat down, and peeped through the

10 loophole in the direction of the rider's approach.

She came up and looked around on the other side of the hedge. Gabriel was about to advance and give her the hat when an unexpected performance induced him to suspend the action for the present. The path, after passing the cowshed, continued through the wood. It was not a bridle-path--merely a narrow track, and the branches spread horizontally at a height not greater than seven feet above the

15 ground, which made it impossible to ride erect beneath them.

The girl, who wore no riding coat, looked around for a moment, as if to assure herself that everybody was out of view, then stylishly dropped backwards flat upon the pony's back, her head over its tail, her feet against its shoulders, and her

20 eyes to the sky. The rapidity of her glide into this position was that of a kingfisher--its noiselessness that of a hawk. Gabriel's eyes had scarcely been able to follow her. The tall lank pony seemed used to such doings, and ambled along unconcerned. Thus she passed under the low branches.

The performer seemed quite at home anywhere between a horse's head and

25 its tail, and the necessity for this abnormal attitude having ceased with the path through the wood, she returned to sitting normally.

Oak was amused, perhaps a little astonished, and hanging up the hat in his hut, went again among his sheep. An hour passed, the girl returned, with a bag of flour balanced in front of her. On nearing the cattle-shed she was met by a boy

30 bringing a milking-pail, who held the reins of the pony whilst she slid off. The boy led away the horse, leaving the pail with the young woman.

Soon soft spirts alternating with loud spirts came in regular succession from within the shed, the obvious sounds of a person milking a cow. Gabriel took the lost hat in his hand, and waited beside the path she would follow on her way

35 home.

- 1) How would you explain the opening words, "A sluggish day began to break"?
(2 marks)
- 2) Explain in your own words what was Gabriel doing by the wood.
(Lines 1 and 2) (2 marks)
- 3) Where does Gabriel find her hat? (1 mark)
- 4) Why, do you think, he hides in his hut rather than approach the young woman?
(2 marks)
- 5) Look at lines 10 -24. What does the woman do on the horse? (3 marks)
- 6) Explain what is meant by the words "The rapidity of her glide into this position was that of a kingfisher--its noiselessness that of a hawk."
(lines 19-20) (3 marks)
- 7) What evidence is there that the woman has done this sort of thing before? (2 marks)
- 8) Explain in your own words what Gabriel thinks of "the performance". (2 mark)
- 9) At the end of the extract, Gabriel is waiting for the young woman. Explain what you think he thinks of her? (3 marks)

(20 marks)

Section B

Spend 25 minutes on this section

Write a **descriptive** passage on **one** of the following. Remember to check your work carefully.

- a) The crowded market
- b) The dark churchyard
- c) A sporting event
- d) The lazy river

(20 marks)