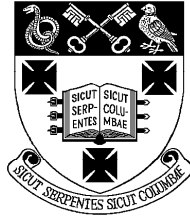


**RADLEY COLLEGE**  
**Entrance Scholarships**



**ENGLISH II**

Wednesday 8th March 2000

Time allowed - 1½ hours

*The paper is divided into two sections, each worth 50 marks.*

*You should spend **45 minutes on each section.***

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

**SECTION A**

*Read the following poems by D.H. Lawrence very carefully at least three times and then answer the questions that follow.*

**The Piano**

Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me;  
Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see  
A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the tingling strings  
And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother who smiles as she sings.

In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song  
Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to belong  
To the old Sunday evenings at home, with winter outside  
And hymns in the cosy parlour, the tinkling piano our guide.

So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamour  
With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour  
Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast  
Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the past.

## Discord in Childhood

Outside the house an ash-tree hung its terrible whips,  
And at night when the wind arose, the lash of the tree  
Shrieked and slashed the wind, as a ship's  
Weird rigging in a storm shrieks hideously.

Within the house two voices arose in anger, a slender lash  
Whistling delirious rage, and the dreadful sound  
Of a thick lash booming and bruising, until it drowned  
The other voice in a silence of blood, 'neath the noise of the ash.

### Questions on "The Piano"

1. Explain as precisely as you can, the exact meanings of the following words and phrases. If you are not sure, try to make an intelligent and reasoned guess by looking carefully at the context.
  - a. "Taking me back down the vista of years" (5)
  - b. "The insidious mastery of song/Betrays me back" (5)
  - c. "...to burst into clamour/With the great black piano appassionato" (5)
2.
  - a. What feelings about this remembered scene from childhood does the poem convey? (5)
  - b. Give three examples of words and phrases which create those feelings and explain briefly why and how they do so. (10)

### Questions on "Discord in Childhood"

1. Write a short paragraph explaining what you think this poem is about. (10)
2. Write a paragraph about the language of this poem, paying particular attention to the verbs and adjectives, explaining the effect that they have. (10)

**(50 marks)**

## **SECTION B**

Write a poem of between 12 and 20 lines in which you look back on a scene from your childhood, describing how you feel about it now.

**(50 marks)**