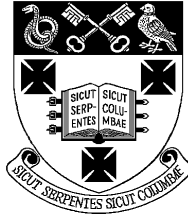


RADLEY COLLEGE
Entrance Scholarships



ENGLISH II

Wednesday 7th March 2001

Time allowed - 1 1/2 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

Compare and contrast the following descriptions of the city of London, both of which are set in the early morning, in any ways which seem to you to be interesting. You might like to consider the following:

The atmosphere and tone of each piece;

The descriptions of the landscape and the buildings in each case;

Any particular words and phrases that strike you;

The difference between the city of London in 1802 and in 1991.

Composed upon Westminster Bridge, Sept. 3. 1802

Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
 A sight so touching in its majesty:
This city now doth like a garment wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
 Open to the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
 Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendor valley, rock or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will;
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still.

by William Wordsworth

The city, too, bombards him. He sees decades and centuries, poverty and wealth, grace and vulgarity. He sees a kaleidoscope of time and mood; buildings that ape Gothic cathedrals, that remember Greek temples, that parade symbols and images. He sees columns, pediments and porticos. He sees Victorian stucco, twentieth-century concrete, a snatch of Georgian brick. He notes the resilience and tenacity of the city, and its indifference.

He sees too that the city speaks in tongues; Pizza Ciao, King's Cross Kebab, New Raj Mahal Tandoori, Nepalese Brasserie. And he hears another clamour, a cacophony of sound that runs the whole gamut from Yiddish to Urdu, a global testimony reaching from Moscow to Sydney, by way of Greece and Turkey and remote nameless birthplaces in Ireland or India or the Caribbean. The resonances of the place are universal. If the city were to recount its experience, the ensuing babble would be the talk of every time and everywhere, of persecution and disaster, of success and misfortune. The whole place is a chronicle, in brick and stone, in silent eloquence, for those who have eyes and ears.

At the Angel crossroads he contemplates the airy wasteland of orange cranes, scaffoldings, hoardings and battered buildings clinging to their last days of existence, everything coming up and going down simultaneously. In front of a late Victorian facade two children cling to balloons like silver cushions and a man with Rasta hair crowded into a roomy beret waits to cross the road.

Adapted from "City of the Mind", Penelope Lively, 1991

(50 marks)

SECTION B

Write a detailed description of a place that you know really well. Try to convey to the reader exactly what it looks like but also something of its special qualities. Write about 300 words.

(50 marks)