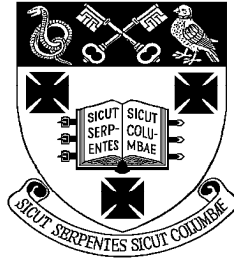


RADLEY COLLEGE
Entrance Scholarships



ENGLISH II

Wednesday 5th March 2003

Time allowed: 90 minutes

The paper consists of two questions each worth 50 marks.

*You should spend at least **15-20 minutes** reading, thinking and making notes before writing. Concise, clear **well-written** answers will gain the highest marks.*

Read the two poems, both by the Nobel prize-winning Irish poet Seamus Heaney, and then answer the questions.

Trout

Hangs, a fat gun barrel
deep under arched bridges
or slips like butter down
the throat of the river

From depths smooth-skinned as plums,
his muzzle gets bull's eye;
picks off grass-seed and moths
that vanish, torpedoed.

Where water unravels
over gravel-beds he
is fired from the shallows,
white belly reporting

flat; darts like a tracer-
bullet back between stones
and is never burnt out.
A volley of cold blood

ramrodding the current.

from *Death of a Naturalist*, 1966

Perch

Perch on their water-perch hung in the clear Bann River
Near the clay bank in alder-dapple and waver,

Perch we called 'grunts', little flood-slubs, runty and ready,
I saw and I see in the river's glorified body

That is passable through, but they're bluntly holding the pass,
Under the water-roof, hold over the bottom, adoze,

Guzzling the current, against it, all muscle and slur
In the finland of perch, the fenland of alder, on air

That is water, on carpets of Bann stream, on hold
In the everything flows and steady go of the world.

from *Electric Light*, 2001

- 1) Choose **either** 'Trout' **or** "Perch" and write a detailed study of the poem.

You should consider:

- the description of the fish and its lifestyle
- features of the language such as vocabulary, expression and imagery,

paying close attention to particular words and phrases.

2) Compare and contrast the two poems.

You should consider:

- any similarities and differences in content;
- any similarities and differences in terms of vocabulary, expression and imagery
- any similarities and differences in terms of sound (rhyme and rhythm).