

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

April 2020
for entry in September 2021

ENGLISH

Your Name: _____

Your School: _____

Time allowed: 1 hour

Equipment needed: Pen and lined paper.

Information for candidates:

1. Dictionaries are NOT allowed.
2. Write your name and school on this page.
3. Write your answers on the separate **paper provided**. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use.
4. There are 2 sections in this paper Section A and B. You should attempt both of them.
5. The paper will be marked out of 40. The marks for each question are indicated in square brackets [].

SECTION A

Read the following extract and answer ALL the questions that follow:

- “Never, shall I forget the sensations of awe, terror and admiration with which I gazed about me. The boat appeared to be hanging, as if by magic, midway down, upon the interior surface of a funnel or whirlpool, vast in circumference, prodigious in depth, and whose perfectly smooth sides might have been mistaken for black wood, but for the bewildering rapidity with which they spun around, and for the gleaming and ghastly radiance they shot forth, as the rays of the full moon, from that circular rift amid the clouds, streamed in a flood of golden glory along the black walls, and far away down into the inmost recess of the abyss.
- 5
- 10 "At first I was too much confused to observe anything accurately. The general burst of terrific grandeur was all that I beheld. When I recovered myself a little, however, my gaze fell instinctively downward. In this direction I was able to obtain an unobstructed view, from the manner in which the boat hung on the sloping surface of the pool. She was quite even - that is to say, her deck lay parallel with that of the water - but the pool sloped at an angle of more than forty-five degrees, so that we seem to be lying upon her beam-ends¹. I could not help observing, that I had scarcely more difficulty in maintaining my hold and footing in the situation than if we had been upon a dead level; and this, I supported, was owing to the speed at which we revolved.
- 15
- 20 "The rays of the moon seemed to search the very bottom of the deep gulf; but still I could make out nothing clearly, on account of a thick mist in which everything there was enveloped, and over which there hung a magnificent rainbow, like that narrow and tottering bridge which they say is the only pathway between Time and Eternity. The mist, or spray, was no doubt created by the clashing of the great walls of the funnel, as they all met together at the bottom - but the yell that went up to the heavens from out of the mist, I dare not attempt to describe.
- 25
- 30 "Round and round we swept - not with any uniform movement - but in dizzying swings and jerks, that sent us sometime only a few hundred yards - sometimes nearly the complete circuit of the whirl. Our progress downward, at each revolution, was slow but very perceptible."

Taken from, *A Descent into the Maelström*, by Edgar Allan Poe

¹ "upon her beam ends" means the boat is on her side.

1. Where is the boat? [2 marks]
2. How is the boat positioned and what is happening to it? Find evidence from the text with brief quotations to support your answer? [4 marks]
3. What are the feelings of the narrator of the passage? Find short quotations to support your answer? [4 marks]
4. How does the writer create a sense of atmosphere and tension in the passage? [10 marks]

SECTION B

Choose ONE of the question below. You do not have to write a long piece. Think about using good vocabulary and writing accurately. [20 marks]

EITHER

1. Write a short story or descriptive piece called "The Rays of the Moon".

OR

2. Write about a time when you faced a difficult situation, it could be real or imagined.