

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

April 2022
for entry in September 2023

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:

The road leading away from the gas station and the church was very poor indeed, deeply rutted and rocky. Eleanor's little car stumbled and bounced, reluctant to go farther into these unattractive hills, where the day seemed quickly drawing to an end under the thick, oppressive trees on either side. They do not really seem to have much traffic on this road, Eleanor thought wryly, turning the wheel quickly to avoid a particularly vicious rock ahead; 5 six miles of this will not do the car any good; and for the first time in hours she thought of her sister and laughed. By now they would surely know that she had taken the car and gone, but they would not know where; they would be telling each other incredulously that they would never have suspected it of Eleanor. I would never have suspected it of myself, she 10 thought, laughing still; everything is different, I am a new person, very far from home. And she gasped as the car cracked against a rock and reeled back across the road with an ominous scraping somewhere beneath, but then gathered itself together valiantly and resumed its dogged climb. The tree branches brushed against the windshield, and it grew steadily darker; Hill House likes to make an entrance, she thought; I wonder if the sun ever shines along here. 15 At last, with one final effort, the car cleared a tangle of dead leaves and small branches across the road, and came into a clearing by the gate of Hill House.

Why am I here? she thought helplessly and at once; why am I here? The gate was tall and ominous and heavy, set strongly into a stone wall which went off through the trees. Even 20 from the car she could see the padlock and the chain that was twisted around and through the bars. Beyond the gate she could see only that the road continued, turned, shadowed on either side by the still, dark trees. Since the gate was so clearly locked—locked and double-locked and chained and barred; who, she wondered, wants so badly to get in?—she made no attempt to get out of her car, but pressed the horn, and the trees and the gate shuddered and 25 withdrew slightly from the sound. After a minute she blew the horn again and then saw a man coming toward her from inside the gate; he was as dark and unwelcoming as the padlock, and before he moved toward the gate he peered through the bars at her, scowling.

Taken from, *The Haunting of Hill House*, by Shirley Jackson

1. Where is Eleanor going? [2 marks]
2. What do you learn about Eleanor, what she has done and what she thinks and feels? [6 marks]
3. What is significant about the gate? Pick two short quotations to support your ideas and explain why you have chosen them. [4 marks]
4. How does the writer create a sense of atmosphere and tension in the passage? [8 marks]

SECTION B

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

EITHER

1. Write a continuation of the passage.

OR

2. Write a story called "The Final Destination". This could be based on a real event or imagined.