

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2023

ENGLISH

(One and a half hours)

Remember to write your candidate number on every sheet of answer paper used.

You must answer all questions.

Do not turn over until told to do so.

PART ONE

Read the poem slowly and carefully and then answer **ALL** the questions that follow.

Mirror

I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
 Whatever I see I swallow immediately
 Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
 I am not cruel, only truthful,
 The eye of a little god, four-cornered. 5
 Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
 It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
 I think it is part of my heart. But it flickers.
 Faces and darkness separate us over and over.

Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me, 10
 Searching my reaches for what she really is.
 Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.
 I see her back, and reflect it faithfully.
 She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.
 I am important to her. She comes and goes. 15
 Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.
 In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
 Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.

1. Pick out three details from lines 1-16 of this poem that you think are particularly powerful. Explain the importance of each detail as carefully, and as thoroughly, as you can. [15]
2. What is your understanding of the poem’s two final lines? Explain their meaning as carefully, and as precisely, as you can. [10]
3. In your view, is this an optimistic or a pessimistic poem? Make sure you quote and use evidence from the text to support your ideas. [10]
4. Imagine you are the poet. After writing “Mirror”, you want to get your poem published. Write a covering letter¹ to a publisher explaining why ‘Mirror’ should be published. [15]

¹ A covering letter is a letter written by an author to a publisher explaining their work and why people might want to read it.

PART TWO: General

IMPORTANT: Begin this question on a new sheet of paper.

This question does not assume, and its assessment will not reward, additional non Source-based knowledge of the images in the Source.

Look carefully at the images in Sources 1 - 3 on the following pages.

1. Which of the three Sources appeals to you most and why?
[5]
2. Referring to all three Sources, write about the common themes which you notice. You will be given credit based upon the strength of your writing and ideas rather than for producing a “correct” answer.
[8]
3. In your opinion, can we ever really see ourselves from another’s perspective? You should range beyond the Sources in your response. Feel free to explore as many possible ideas and perspectives as you like.
[12]

ENGLISH

Source 1

Source 2

Source 3

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END OF PAPER