



BENENDEN

14+ Entrance 2022/2023

ENGLISH

1 Hour

Name: _____

School: _____

Date: _____

Instructions to Candidates:

- Answer **both** questions, writing your answers in this booklet
- Each is worth 50 marks
- Try to spend roughly the same amount of time on each

Total marks for this paper = 100

Question 1

This poem is by Dominican-American poet Rhina P. Espailat who writes in both English and Spanish. This poem explores her bilingual identity and her relationship with her father. The Spanish words in parentheses are translations of the English words that precede them.

Read the poem carefully and answer the question that follows.

Bilingual/Bilingüe by Rhina P. Espailat

My father liked them separate, one there,
one here (allá y aquí), as if aware

that words might cut in two his daughter's heart
(el corazón) and lock the alien part

to what he was—his memory, his name
(su nombre)—with a key he could not claim.

“English outside this door, Spanish inside,”
he said, “y basta.” But who can divide

the world, the word (mundo y palabra) from
any child? I knew how to be dumb

and stubborn (testaruda); late, in bed,
I hoarded secret syllables I read

until my tongue (mi lengua) learned to run
where his stumbled. And still the heart was one.

I like to think he knew that, even when,
proud (orgulloso) of his daughter's pen,

he stood outside mis versos, half in fear
of words he loved but wanted not to hear.

*Glossary: “y basta”- that's it
mis versos- my verses*







