



BENENDEN

**SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE 2023**

**ENGLISH**

*1 hour 30 minutes*

**Full Name:**

---

**Current School:**

---

**Date:**

---

**Instructions to Candidates:**

- This paper is 90 minutes long and has a maximum of 100 marks.
- There are **TWO** sections.  
Answer **Question 1** from **Section A** and **either Question 2 or Question 3** from **Section B**.
- Please write your answers to **Section A** and **Section B** in this booklet
- Use black pen for writing.

## Section A – Unseen Poetry

### Question 1

Read the following poem, *To My Nine-Year-Old Self* by Helen Dunmore and write an analysis of what you find interesting about the poem. You should explain what you believe Dunmore’s message might be as you analyse the techniques that she uses.

[50 marks]

#### **To My Nine-Year-Old Self**

You must forgive me. Don’t look so surprised,  
perplexed, and eager to be gone,  
balancing on your hands or on the tightrope.  
You would rather run than walk, rather climb than run  
rather leap from a height than anything. 5

I have spoiled this body we once shared.  
Look at the scars, and watch the way I move,  
careful of a bad back or a bruised foot.  
Do you remember how, three minutes after waking  
we’d jump straight out of the ground floor window 10  
into the summer morning?

That dream we had, no doubt it’s as fresh in your mind  
as the white paper to write it on.  
We made a start, but something else came up –  
a baby vole, or a bag of sherbet lemons – 15  
and besides, that summer of ambition  
created an ice-lolly factory, a wasp trap  
and a den by the old pits.

I'd like to say that we could be friends  
but the truth is we have nothing in common                   20  
beyond a few shared years. I won't keep you then.  
Time to pick rosehips for tuppence\* a pound,  
time to hide down scared lanes  
from men in cars after girl-children,

or to lunge out over the water                                   25  
on a rope that swings from that tree  
long buried in housing –  
but no, I shan't cloud your morning. God knows  
I have fears enough for us both –

I leave you in an ecstasy of concentration                   30  
slowly peeling a ripe scab from your knee  
to taste it on your tongue.

**Helen Dunmore**

\*tuppence – an old coin (worth 2 pence)

## Section B – Novels and Drama

Answer either Question 2 or Question 3

### Question 2

“Any most important element of any novel is its end. The ending of a novel shows us the reader what the novel has truly been about.”

Choose any novel that you have read independently or studied at school. Explain what you think about the significance of the ending of the novel and how this relates to the novel as a whole. You may discuss how much you agree or disagree with the quotation above as part of your answer.

[50 marks]

Or

### Question 3

“The best plays are those that have one clear moral or message that they want to leave the audience to consider for themselves.”

Explain how you respond to this statement using examples from at least one play that you have read, studied or seen performed. You should analyse how the playwright presents their central message or moral within your analysis.

[50 marks]

















