

# Entrance Exam

## English

45 Minutes



## Scarborough College

- a) Please answer SECTION A and SECTION B on separate pieces of paper.
- b) Use blue or black biro or pen.
- c) Write your name on **each** piece of paper.
- d) Marks will be awarded for presentation, the correct use of English, punctuation and spelling.

## SECTION A

Aim to spend 20 minutes on this section. Read carefully through the following passage before you write anything. This extract is taken from the opening chapter of *Fearless* by Tim Lott and is called:-

### THE NIGHT THEY CAME

Answer all questions in full sentences.

- 1 The girl could hear sobbing in the front room. Her mother was always crying about something or other, so the girl didn't take much notice. She just kept staring at the vidscreen in the corner of her bedroom. There was an advert for a holiday showing, all blue sea and white waves and sand like a field of honey.
- 5 She wished she could just climb into the vidscreen and stretch out on the sand, dip her toes into the water and never return. She would stay there and watch the world from the other side of the screen.
- Then the knocking on the front door began. The girl thought that was odd, because they had a perfectly good doorbell. The knock seemed almost like a
- 10 message. It went *rap-rap-rapperty-rap*, as if it was a friend or neighbour who always did their own special knock. But friends never came after dark, and the neighbours kept themselves to themselves.
- The girl heard a noise behind her. She turned and saw her mother. A dark birthmark the size of a fingernail and the shape of a star protruded from her
- 15 hairline. Her cheeks were still damp from crying; her eyes were red and scrunched up like meat from a butcher's shop. She hadn't answered the door. Instead she lifted the girl up and pressed their faces together. The girl kissed her mother, and tasted salt. Her mother smiled, as if to tell her that everything was OK. Then she said she had some presents for her. The girl didn't understand.
- 20 Her birthday was months away.
- Her mother produced a small cloth bag, and brought out three objects. The first was a picture of the girl's grandmother and grandfather, mounted in a bronze frame. Her grandfather wore a black suit with a cravat, and her grandmother wore a long pale dress and a floppy dark hat.
- 25 The second was a beautiful old silver watch with a fine leather strap that she said had once belonged to the girl's father. She said she ought to have something to remind her that she did once have a father.
- Finally she gave the girl one more thing. A golden locket containing a tiny photograph of her mother on her wedding day. She hung it gravely around the
- 30 girl's neck. Then she put the framed photo and the watch back into the little cloth bag, handed it to the girl and kissed her.
- The knock on the door came again, louder this time. *Rap-rap-rapperty-rap*. Her mother left the room. The girl heard the door catch being released, and then her mother began to shout. She heard a man's voice, stern and official
- 35 sounding. A few seconds later, a man in uniform wearing a black peaked cap walked into the girl's room and, without a word, lifted her up. She could hear her mother crying. The man didn't pause to let her say goodbye to her mother. He started to carry her down the stairs. The girl went limp. She felt unable to speak. The door closed behind her. Then she heard her mother's voice through the thin
- 40 panel of wood.

“The locket. Read the words. Never forget the words on the locket.”

In the harsh light of the street, the girl studied the back of the locket. She could just make out three lines of faint engraving. The girl pushed the locket inside her blouse, and closed her eyes. She didn't resist as the man bundled her into the  
45 back of the ugly grey car with no side windows, started the engine and drove away into the darkness.

## SECTION A

- 1 How do you think the girl is feeling in the first paragraph? *3 Marks*
- 2 What is different about the “knock” in the second paragraph? *3 Marks*
- 3 Find three pieces of evidence from the third paragraph which shows that the girl’s mother has been crying. *3 Marks*
- 4 Why does the girl think her mother is giving her presents?
- 5 Think of another word which means the same as:-
- |    |           |   |         |
|----|-----------|---|---------|
| a) | Protruded | - | line 14 |
| b) | Scrunched | - | line 16 |
| c) | Mounted   | - | line 22 |
| d) | Cravat    | - | line 23 |
| e) | Gravely   | - | line 29 |
| f) | Released  | - | line 33 |
| g) | Limp      | - | line 38 |
| h) | Engraving | - | line 43 |
| i) | Resist    | - | line 44 |
| j) | Bundled   | - | line 44 |
- 10 Marks*
- 6 How does the passage make you feel?
- Consider how the writer makes it feel strange. Think about the words he uses and the effect created. *3 Marks*

*(Total Marks for Section A = 25)*

## SECTION B

Answer this question on a SEPARATE piece of A4 paper.

Choose ONE of the following essay titles and write as interestingly as you can in approximately 25 minutes:-

**1      The Night They Came**

Write your own story in which you describe an experience when strange visitors came and what happened.

**OR**

**2      Continue the story as the car drives away into the darkness .....**

What happens next? Create your own adventure.

*15 Marks for content*

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*10 Marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar*