

Bedford School

13+/14+

Entrance Examination

Past Paper

English

One hour

Please ensure that answers are written on lined paper and using pen

Carefully read the following poem and answer the questions in as much detail as you can. Try to support your answers by using examples from the poem and examining the writer's use of language and sound where appropriate.

Wind

This house has been far out at sea all night,
The woods crashing through darkness, the booming hills,
Winds stampeding the fields under the window
Floundering black astride and blinding wet

Till day rose; then under an orange sky
The hills had new places, and wind wielded
Blade-light, luminous black and emerald,
Flexing like the lens of a mad eye.

At noon I scaled along the house-side as far as
The coal-house door. Once I looked up -
Through the brunt wind that dented the balls of my eyes
The tent of the hills drummed and strained its guyrope,

The fields quivering, the skyline a grimace,
At any second to bang and vanish with a flap;
The wind flung a magpie away and a black-
Back gull bent like an iron bar slowly. The house

Rang like some fine green goblet in the note
That any second would shatter it. Now deep
In chairs, in front of the great fire, we grip
Our hearts and cannot entertain book, thought,

Or each other. We watch the fire blazing,
And feel the roots of the house move, but sit on,
Seeing the window tremble to come in,
Hearing the stones cry out under the horizons.

Ted Hughes

- 1. How does the poet describe the wind in this poem? (4 marks)**
- 2. How does the poet portray the relationship between humans and the natural world? (5 marks)**
- 3. What thoughts and emotions does the poet create in the final two stanzas (i.e. the final eight lines)? (6 marks)**
- 4. Write a detailed description of a particularly memorable or striking place, paying careful attention to the accuracy and quality of your writing.. Like Hughes, you could choose to focus on the weather. (10 Marks)**

