UNIVERSITIES OF MANCHESTER LIVERPOOL LEEDS SHEFFIELD AND BIRMINGHAM

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

TWO AND A HALF HOURS

Candidates MUST answer Questions 1 and 2, and any TWO other questions.

Candidates are recommended to spend not more than 50 minutes on Question 1 and not more than 60 minutes on Question 2.

Write legibly and pay great attention to spelling and punctuation.

1. Read the following passage carefully two or three times, and then answer the questions on it :

The gaiety of the blind is a perpetual wonder to me. It is as though, the outer light being quenched, an inner light of the spirit illuminates the darkness.

Mr. Galsworthy once wrote to *The Times* a letter full of pity for the unhappiness of the blind, and there promptly descended on him an avalanche of protest from the blind themselves, whose testimony is clearly unassailable.

It has been said that the advantage of the blind over the deaf is more apparent than real, because it is most evident in company. In conversation the sightless are on an equality with the seeing, while the deaf are imprisoned in a terrible isolation. On the other hand, in solitude the deaf have the advantage. All the colour and movement in life are theirs, while the blind are not only denied vision of the outer world, but suffer a restriction of movement that the deaf do not share. To me, however, the loss of sight is more bearable than the loss of hearing. The lovely sights of nature are but the setting for the drama of life ; human contacts are what give life its zest, and the ear is the channel for those contacts.

Enjoyment of the external world is, moreover, not entirely denied to the blind man. He cannot see the sunset, but he hears the nightingale ; and if he has music in his soul, he has a realm of gold for his inheritance that makes
25 life a perpetual joy. There is no more pathetic story than that of Beethoven breaking the strings of his piano in vain efforts to make his immortal harmonies penetrate his soundless ears.

(*a*) The above passage refers to two opinions,

A. that the blind are happier than the deaf,

B. that the deaf are happier than the blind.

Write two paragraphs giving **in your own words** the arguments put forward, one paragraph of about 50 words in support of A, and one of about 40 words in support of B. Do not use illustrations or figures of speech.

(*b*) For each of the following give a **single** word which could be used in its place in the passage without substantially altering the meaning : (i) perpetual (line 1), (ii) wonder (line 1), (iii) quenched (line 2), (iv) promptly (line 5), (v) evident (line 9), (vi) entirely (line 22), (vii) realm (line 24), (viii) vain (line 26).

(*c*) Explain the meaning of the following fully and clearly :

(i) whose testimony is clearly unassailable (line 7),

(ii) the advantage of the blind over the deaf is more apparent than real (lines 8–9),

(iii) human contacts are what give life its zest, and the ear is the channel for those contacts (lines 18–20).

(*d*) Consider the metaphor " The lovely sights of nature are but the setting for the drama of life " (lines 17–18), and state, without using the words of the metaphor, (i) what life is compared to, (ii) what the lovely sights of nature are compared to.

(*e*) What does the metaphorical use of *avalanche* in line 6 imply ?

2. Write from **two** to **three** pages on **one** of the following subjects :

(*a*) The empty house.

(*b*) The most pleasant surprise of my life **or** the greatest disappointment.

(*c*) A local celebrity.

(*d*) Should wild animals be kept in captivity ?

(*e*) A visit to another planet.

(*f*) Tunnels.

3. (*a*) The words in italics in the following sentences are wrongly used :

(i) The *statute* of General Gordon has been removed from Trafalgar Square.

(ii) The boy had two *raises* in six months and by the end of the year his pay had been doubled.

(iii) The chairman thanked the *honourable* secretary for the great services he had rendered to the society.

(iv) The *audience* cheered the centre-forward as he scored the winning goal.

(v) Wilberforce is *notorious* for his work on behalf of slaves.

(vi) It is a *unique* specimen ; there are only three others like it.

(vii) The delegation was *comprised* of men of various political beliefs.

First supply a word for each sentence which would be correctly used instead of the word in italics ; then choose **three** of the words in italics and introduce each of the three into a separate sentence **clearly showing its meaning.**

(*b*) Give the meaning of each of the following without using obvious metaphors :

(i) The professor is a mine of information.

(ii) It would be pleasant if we could import unlimited food-stuffs, but we must cut our coat according to our cloth.

[This question is continued on page 4.]

(iii) He was such a turncoat that you could never believe in the sincerity of his political declarations.

(iv) He persisted in burning the candle at both ends until he fell seriously ill.

(v) I wanted to carry out a thorough investigation of the transactions, but my partner advised me to let sleeping dogs lie.

(vi) When John had fired us with enthusiasm for his project, Jim came along and threw cold water on all our plans.

4. (*a*) " Writing letters is not considered an art in our day. Business men to whom correspondence is burdensome are dictating more and more frequently as time goes on."

In the above paragraph find and write out one example of each of the following :

(i) adverb of degree, (ii) present participle, (iii) past participle, (iv) preposition, (v) possessive adjective, (vi) predicative adjective (or adjective complement of a verb), (vii) relative pronoun, (viii) gerund (or verbal noun), (ix) coordinating conjunction, (x) subordinating conjunction.

(*b*) Without changing the general meaning, replace the group of words in italics in each of the following sentences by a dependent clause, and state the kind and function of the dependent clause and the word on which it depends.

(i) *His words* encouraged me to persevere.

(ii) *In spite of his pleas for lenient treatment*, he was heavily fined.

(iii) I do not know *the time of his expected arrival.*

(iv) *Realising* that night was coming on, we decided to take shelter.

(v) He made the excuse *of having been absent* when the homework was given out.

(vi) *With the object of deceiving the enemy*, we dressed in white.

[Question 5 is on page 5.]

5. Read the following poem carefully and then answer the questions on it :

Frost called to water, " Halt ! "
And crusted the moist snow with sparkling salt ;
Brooks, their own bridges, stop,
And icicles in long stalactites drop,
5 And tench in water-holes
Lurk under gluey glass like fish in bowls.

In the hard-rutted lane
At every footstep breaks a brittle pane,
And tinkling trees ice-bound,
10 Changed into weeping willows, sweep the ground ;
Dead boughs take root in ponds
And ferns on windows shoot their ghostly fronds.

But vainly the fierce frost
Interns poor fish, ranks trees in an armed host,
15 Hangs daggers from house-eaves
And on the windows ferny ambush weaves.
In the long war grown warmer
The sun will strike him dead and strip his armour.

(*a*) Express **in your own words**, without using figures of speech, the ideas in

(i) lines 1 and 2 (use not more than 25 words),

(ii) lines 17 and 18 (use not more than 25 words).

(*b*) Explain the meaning of the following as used in this poem :

(i) brooks, their own bridges (line 3),

(ii) take root (line 11),

(iii) interns (line 14).

(*c*) Give the single-word grammatical subject of (i) breaks (line 8), (ii) sweep (line 10), (iii) weaves (line 16).

(*d*) The poet writes about stalactites (line 4), glass (line 6) and ghostly fronds (line 12).

What other words are used elsewhere in the poem to describe the notions conveyed by these words ?

(*e*) Quote from the poem (i) an imperfect rhyme, (ii) two examples of alliteration.