ST EDWARD’S
OXFORD

16+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

For entry in
September 2015

HISTORY

Time: 1 hour

Candidates Name: ......................................................

Instructions to Candidates

1. Answer ONE question from Section A and answer the question in Section B.

2. You are advised to spend 40 minutes on Section A and 20 minutes on Section B.

3. You are reminded of the importance of clear and orderly presentation in your answers.
Section A

Answer ONE question from this section.

i) “History is the study of human progress.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples from at least two periods that you have studied. (30 marks)

ii) “History is primarily the story of great men and women.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples from at least two periods that you have studied. (30 marks)

iii) What is the purpose of history? Explore this question with reference to at least two periods or countries that you have studied. (30 marks)

iv) How important is it to study the history of your own country over the histories of other nations? Explore this question with reference to at least two periods or countries that you have studied. (30 marks)

v) “History is just one thing after another.” To what extent do you agree with the idea that history is just a sequence of events? (30 marks)

Section B

This is an adapted draft speech of a member of the Conservative government of 1958. You do not need to know anything about the United Kingdom in the 1950s to answer the question below, and you should not provide information other than from the source.

One of the unexplained phenomena of the post-war years is the way in which juvenile delinquency has risen and fallen at intervals of a few years. The Home Office research unit are trying to find reasons that would explain these fairly regular fluctuations, but they have so far made only a little progress. Some part of these increases are explained by the larger numbers of children born in the years 1942 and onwards, and now aged up to 15. Disturbing as the recent increase in delinquency among the younger children is, a more serious problem at the present time is the increase in crime by youths and young men aged 15 and up to 25 or so. It does seem likely that some of this generation are suffering from the effects of the war on them during their infancy. There are indications—it is too early yet to be sure—that children born after the war, that is from the peak of the “birth rate bulge” onwards, may tend to be less delinquent than those born earlier. (Accessed from the National Archive)

What does this extract tell you about young people in Britain after WII?