

# Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2016

## ENGLISH

(One and a half hours)

**Remember to write your candidate number on every sheet of answer paper used.**

***You must answer all three questions.***

*You are advised to spend fifteen minutes reading the poetry extracts, about fifteen minutes on Question 1 and about thirty minutes on each of Questions 2 and 3.*

*You need not answer the questions in the order set, but you must start each one on a separate piece of paper.*

*If you have not finished a question after 30 minutes, you are strongly advised to leave it and go on to another. Return to any unfinished question if you have time left at the end of the paper.*

**Do not turn over until told to do so.**

## ENGLISH

*The following two poems were both written a hundred years ago. In 'Easter 1916' the Irish poet W.B. Yeats describes the personality and fate of some Irish Nationalists who fought against the British for the sake of their country's independence. Sassoon's poem describes the impact that war has on the men who fight it. Read the two poems slowly and carefully and then answer all the questions that follow.*

### Easter, 1916

I have met them at close of day	1
Coming with vivid faces	
From counter or desk among grey	
Eighteenth-century houses.	
I have passed with a nod of the head	5
Or polite meaningless words,	
Or have lingered awhile and said	
Polite meaningless words,	
And thought before I had done	
Of a mocking tale or a gibe	10
To please a companion	
Around the fire at the club,	
Being certain that they and I	
But lived where motley is worn:	
All changed, changed utterly:	15
A terrible beauty is born.	
That woman's days were spent	
In ignorant good-will,	
Her nights in argument	
Until her voice grew shrill.	20
What voice more sweet than hers	
When, young and beautiful,	
She rode to harriers?	
This man had kept a school	
And rode our winged horse;	25
This other his helper and friend	
Was coming into his force;	
He might have won fame in the end,	
So sensitive his nature seemed,	
So daring and sweet his thought.	30
This other man I had dreamed	
A drunken, vainglorious lout.	
He had done most bitter wrong	
To some who are near my heart,	
Yet I number him in the song;	35
He, too, has resigned his part	
In the casual comedy;	
He, too, has been changed in his turn,	
Transformed utterly:	
A terrible beauty is born.	40

*Please turn over*

## ENGLISH

Hearts with one purpose alone  
Through summer and winter seem  
Enchanted to a stone  
To trouble the living stream.  
The horse that comes from the road. 45  
The rider, the birds that range  
From cloud to tumbling cloud,  
Minute by minute they change;  
A shadow of cloud on the stream  
Changes minute by minute; 50  
A horse-hoof slides on the brim,  
And a horse plashes within it;  
The long-legged moor-hens dive,  
And hens to moor-cocks call;  
Minute by minute they live: 55  
The stone's in the midst of all.

Too long a sacrifice  
Can make a stone of the heart.  
O when may it suffice?  
That is Heaven's part, our part 60  
To murmur name upon name,  
As a mother names her child  
When sleep at last has come  
On limbs that had run wild.  
What is it but nightfall? 65  
No, no, not night but death;  
Was it needless death after all?  
For England may keep faith  
For all that is done and said.  
We know their dream; enough 70  
To know they dreamed and are dead;  
And what if excess of love  
Bewildered them till they died?  
I write it out in a verse -  
MacDonagh and MacBride 75  
And Connolly and Pearse  
Now and in time to be,  
Wherever green is worn,  
Are changed, changed utterly:  
A terrible beauty is born. 80

W.B. Yeats (1916)

*Please turn over*

## ENGLISH

### 'They'

The Bishop tells us: 'When the boys come back 1  
They will not be the same; for they'll have fought  
In a just cause: they lead the last attack  
On Anti-Christ; their comrades' blood has bought  
New right to breed an honourable race, 5  
They have challenged Death and dared him face to face.'

'We're none of us the same!' the boys reply.  
'For George lost both his legs; and Bill's stone blind;  
Poor Jim's shot through the lungs and like to die; 9  
And Bert's gone syphilitic: you'll not find  
A chap who's served that hasn't found *some* change.'  
And the Bishop said: 'The ways of God are strange!'

Siegfried Sassoon (1916)

1. Paraphrase (write in your own words in modern prose)
  - a) Easter, 1916: lines 70-80 inclusive [20]
  - b) 'They': lines 1-6 inclusive [10]
2. As you can see the poems were written in the same year. Describe what they share in terms of style and in the treatment of their subject matter. (You might like to consider aspects such as form, rhyme scheme, vocabulary, syntax, punctuation, imagery, similes and metaphors as well as the poets' attitudes towards what they describe and their impact on the reader. You might also want to consider any interesting differences between the two poems.) [30]
3. Write a diary page set in either the present or the past in which a soldier describes his experience of battle. Credit will be given for a lively use of language and for the creation of a vivid sense of character. [40]

**END OF PAPER**