



Taunton School 13+ Academic Scholarships

English – sample questions

SAMPLE



The poem below was written by James Berry. Read the poem carefully and then answer all the questions that follow. You will be assessed on your understanding of the poem, your analysis of the poetic language, and your ability to write clearly and coherently in formal English. You have 45 minutes.

Hurricane

Under low black clouds
the wind was all
speedy feet, all horns and breath,
all bangs, howls, rattles,
in every hen house
church hall and school.

Roaring, screaming, returning,
it made forced entry, shoved walls,
made rifts, brought roofs down,
hitting rooms to sticks apart.

It wrung soft banana trees,
broke tough trunks of palms.
It pounded vines of yams,
left fields battered up.

Invisible with such ecstasy
with no intervention of sun or man-
everywhere kept changing branches.

Zinc sheets are kites.
Leaves are panic swarms.
Fowls are fixed with feathers turned.
Cats, dogs, pigs,
all are people together.

Then growling it slunk away
from muddy, mossy trail and boats
in hedges and cows, trees,
fish, all dead in the road.

Glossary:

Zinc – a type of metal



Questions:

1. There are three quotations underlined; explain how in each one the poet creates a powerful effect through the language used. 6 marks
2. Choose three further quotations from the poem and explain how each is effective in suggesting something about the personality of the storm. 6 marks
3. How does the poet describe the impact that the hurricane has upon the land? You may refer to quotations you have already discussed in previous answers. You should use a minimum of five quotations within your answer. 13 marks

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