



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

Sixth Form Entrance Examination

Sample Paper

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Time: 45 minutes

Instructions to candidates:

- Check your name and candidate number are correct in the space above.
- Please write your answers on the lined paper in the back of this booklet.

The paper is divided into two sections: **Comprehension** and **Analysis**.

Comprehension

You should spend 5 minutes reading the passage and 5 minutes answering the multiple-choice questions.

All possible answers in the multiple-choice section apply to the passage to a certain extent. Please pick the statement that most accurately fits the question - responses are worth either one, two or three marks, depending on their relevance to the text.

Analysis

You should then spend a further 10 minutes planning your answer to the essay question. You should spend about 25 minutes writing an essay in answer to the question.

You will be rewarded for:

- depth of understanding.
- response to the writer's use of language, structure and form.
- a clearly structured discussion.
- clarity and accuracy of expression.

It was the worst of times, it was the worst of times. Again. That's the thing about things. They fall apart, always have, always will, it's in their nature. So an old old man washes up on a shore. He looks like a punctured football with its stitching split, the leather kind that people kicked a hundred years ago. The sea's been rough, it has taken the shirt off his back; naked as the day I was born are the words in the head he moved on its neck, but it hurts to. So try not to move the head. What's this in his mouth, grit? it's sand, it's under his tongue, he can feel it, he can hear it grinding when his teeth move against each other, singing its sand-song: I'm ground so small, but in the end I'm all, I'm softer if I'm underneath you when you fall, in sun I glitter, wind heaps me over litter, put a message in a bottle in the sea, the bottle's made of me, I'm the hardest grain to harvest the words for the song trickle away. He is tired.

The sand in his mouth and his eyes is the last of the grains in the neck of the sandglass.

Daniel Gluck, your luck's run out at last.

He prises open one stuckeye. But-

Daniel sits up on the sand and the stones

-is this it? really? this? is death?

He shades his eyes. Very bright.

Sunlit. Terribly cold, though.

He is on a sandy stony strand, the wind distinctly harsh, the sun out, yes, but no heat off it. Naked, too. No wonder he's cold. He looks down and sees that his body's still the old body, the ruined knees.

He'd imagined death would distil a person, strip the rotting rot away til everything was light as a cloud. Seems the self you get left with on the shore, in the end, is the self that you were when you went.

If I'd known, Daniel thinks, I'd have made sure to go at twenty, twenty five.

Only the good.

Or perhaps (he thinks, one hand shielding his face so if anyone can see him no one will be offended by him picking out what's in the lining of his nose, or giving it a look to see what it is – it's sand, beautiful the details, the different array of colours of even the pulverized world, then he rubs it away off his fingertips) this *is* my self distilled. If so then death's a sorry disappointment.

Thank you for having me, death. Please excuse me, must get back to it, life.

He stands up. It doesn't hurt, not so much, to.

Now then.

Home. Which way? Eyes strangely good without glasses today.

Section A: multiple choice comprehension (suggested time: 5 minutes)

1. Which phrase most accurately summarises what is happening in this passage?

- Daniel is dreaming of waking up after death. (3 marks)
- Daniel has been shipwrecked and washed up on a shore. (1 mark)
- Daniel is waking up in the afterlife. (2 marks)

2. Which pair of words most accurately summarises how Daniel feels about his situation?

- Uncomfortable and scared. (1 mark)
- Shocked and surprised. (2 marks)
- Dissatisfied and disorientated. (3 marks)

3. Which word best summarises Daniel's attitude towards his body?

- Disconnected. (3 marks)
- Frustrated. (2 marks)
- Angry. (1 mark)

Section B: Essay question (suggested time: 25 minutes)

How, and with what effects, does the writer present Daniel Gluck and his situation in this extract?