



## Sixth Form Entrance Examinations: English

### Summary

The purpose of the examination is to provide you with an opportunity to show both your literary understanding and your ability to write in a clear and coherent style. Your response should take the form of one extended essay and the paper will offer you a choice of two questions. One of the options will always ask you to reflect on a text you have studied at GCSE. This will be a generic question that will enable you to select the text you are most comfortable discussing.

### Sample question

Using quotations to support your points, write about the following poem in any way you consider appropriate. You might wish to comment upon some of the following areas:

- The poet's use of metaphor;
- The poet's use of language, form and structure;
- Anything else you feel is of interest.

I am very bothered when I think  
of the bad things I have done in my life.  
Not least that time in the chemistry lab  
when I held a pair of scissors by the blades  
and played the handles  
in the naked lilac flame of the Bunsen burner;  
then called your name, and handed them over.

O the unrivalled stench of branded skin  
as you slipped your thumb and middle finger in,  
then couldn't shake off the two burning rings. Marked,  
the doctor said, for eternity.

Don't believe me, please, if I say  
that was just my butterfingere way, at thirteen,  
of asking you if you would marry me.

Simon Armitage