

Gresham's School
Year 9 Entrance Paper

1 hour

Answer Section A and Section B. You should aim to spend 30 minutes on each section.

Section A

Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions that follow. Try to be as thorough as possible and develop a range of ideas using quotations and analysis to support your ideas.

Read the poem below and respond to the questions that follow.

Flying at Night

Above us, stars. Beneath us, constellations.
Five billion miles away, a galaxy dies
like a snowflake falling on water. Below us,
some farmer, feeling the chill of that distant death,
snaps on his yard light, drawing his sheds and barn
back into the little system of his care.
All night, the cities, like shimmering novas*,
tug with bright streets at lonely lights like
this.

**a star showing a sudden increase of brightness for a period of time*

1. Explore how the poet vividly suggests the immensity of the sky at night. 5 marks
2. How does the poet use language to convey impressions of the earth beneath the plane?

5 marks

Section B

Describe a flight in an aeroplane, helicopter or glider.

10 marks for content

5 marks for accuracy of writing