

**GRESHAM'S SCHOOL YEAR 9 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP**

**ENGLISH**

**EXAMPLE PAPER**

**You have 1 hour to answer both sections. You should aim to spend 15 minutes on each question. You are not expected to write more than half a side of normal sized writing in response to each question.**

**Section A** Read the poem below and answer the question that follows. Use quotation and analysis to support your points.

**The Cablecar**

The silver box rose lightly up from the valley,  
ape-easy, hanging on by its one arm;  
in minutes, it had shrunk the town to a diagram,  
the leaping river to a sluggish leat of kaolin,  
the fletched forests to points it overrode.  
It had you in its web of counterweights,  
of circles evolved to parallel straight lines.

Riding the long slurs, it whisked you over  
the moraine's hopeless rubble. It had your heart  
in your mouth at every pylon, where it sagged,  
leaned back, swooped on. It had you hear how ice  
cracked on the cable. It had you watch it throw  
an already crumpled shadow of bent steel  
onto the seracs. It made you think of falling.

By the time it lowered you back to the spread valley,  
to the broad-roofed houses decorated with lights,  
you could think only of what it was like to step  
out, at the top, onto the giddy edge  
of snowfields still unprinted, that pure blaze;  
to be robbed of your breath by the thin air, by a glimpse  
of the moon's daytime ghost on solid blue.

1. Explore how the poet gives an impression of height through his use of language. 10 marks
2. Explain the change that takes place in the final stanza and the feelings the speaker is left with. 10 marks

## Section B

1. Describe being at the top of a high building in a city.  
8 marks
2. Why do you think a poet's choice of words is important in poetry?  
You can use examples from the poem above to support your ideas or from any other poem you have studied if you wish.  
10 marks

Overall

Content 38 marks

Accuracy 12 marks

Total 50 marks