



Year 9 Academic Scholarship

English

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions:

Answer all questions on this paper

Remember: throughout all of the questions on this paper you will be assessed on the quality and accuracy of your writing

Section A: 20 marks

Section B: 18 marks

Quality and accuracy of writing: 12 marks

Total for paper: 50 marks

Section A

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow. Use quotations and analysis to support your points.

Blessing

The skin cracks like a pod.
There never is enough water.

Imagine the drip of it,
the small splash, echo
in a tin mug, 5
the voice of a kindly god.

Sometimes, the sudden rush
of fortune. The municipal pipe bursts,
silver crashes to the ground
and the flow has found 10
a roar of tongues. From the huts,
a congregation: every man woman
child for streets around
butts in, with pots,
brass, copper, aluminium, 15
plastic buckets,
frantic hands,

and naked children
screaming in the liquid sun,
their highlights polished to perfection, 20
flashing light,
as the blessing sings
over their small bones.

1. Explore how the poet uses language and structure to convey the excitement of the pipe bursting (10)
2. Explain the significance of the religious imagery in the poem (10)

Section A total: 20 marks

Section B

Answer both questions in this section

1. Write a description of a sudden flood. (10)
2. Why do you think the poet's use of structure is important in poetry? You should use examples from the poem above or others you have studied to support your answer. (8)

Section B total: 18 marks