



CHELTENHAM  
LADIES'  
COLLEGE

## EXAMINATION FOR ENTRY TO YEAR 7 (LC1) IN SEPTEMBER 2023

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### ENGLISH

Time allowed: **1 hour**

Family Name: .....First Name .....

Current school:.....

- Instructions to candidates:

- There are two sections to this paper, and **30 marks available in total**.
- For the first **10 minutes** of the exam, you should **read the paper carefully** and **highlight and/or annotate** the text.
- The Invigilator will instruct you to begin your answers after 10 minutes.
- **For the first section**, read the passage and answer the questions which follow it carefully.
- **For the second section**, plan your answers carefully and write about **one** of the subjects.
- Remember to leave enough time to answer both sections properly, spending **no more than 30 minutes on Section A** and **30 minutes on Section B**.
- You should:
  - Answer in pen;
  - Use the lined spaces provided for each question;
  - If you need additional paper, please ask the invigilator.

## SECTION A: READING

**Read the following extract from the novel *October, October* by Katya Balen. The narrator, October, has dug a hole to plant a tree called a silver birch and in this extract she is searching the hole for treasure.**

I kneel down and my eyes search and skim and scan and I see marbled stones hidden in clods of earth veined with plant roots. There are jigsaws of pottery and rusted bottle caps with edges like teeth. I run my fingers around the grainy earth and pluck prizes from the soil.

5 And

then

I scabble deeper and deeper

10

and I find

something magical.

15

I nearly don't see it. It doesn't gleam or shine because it's so caked in mud and dirt that it could just be another clump of earth. But I'm the best searcher in the business and I know there's something there and I press my hands into the hole and I feel it pressing into my palm. When I pull it out I brush and scrub and the middle falls away and I'm left with a perfect circle.

20

A ring.

25

I've never found a ring before. Sometimes I find what I think were once brooches but they're always green and twisted, and sometimes there's a flash of quicksilver in the corner of my eye but is always a wrapper dropped by a thieving bird or the wink of glass smoothed into a pearl. I pour my water over the ring and the gold starts to shine through. I rub it with my fingers but they're as muddy as the ring, so I race back to the house and rinse it under the tap until the sink is black.

30

It's a thin gold band and it's too big for my fingers and the inside is bumpy and grooved. My heart thumps and bounces because I can't wait to tell its story. It'll be the best one yet and I can secretly shape it and craft it until it's perfect and Dad and I can share it by the fire. It's like the woods have given me a birthday present.

35

Then Dad comes back and I slip it into my pocket because I'm not ready to share the story just yet. When I do it will be brilliant and it will fill the space around us with another world.

40

Dad helps me to lift in the silver birch sapling and we fill in the hole. The tree isn't silver yet and is skinny and trembles in the wind. By the time it's grown to full height it will be nearly as big as a blue whale and it will make me feel very small





4. Re-read lines 38-40.

How does the writer create a powerful description of the tree in this paragraph?  
Use one quotation to support your ideas.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

[3 marks]

(15 marks in total)

**Please continue to Section B**

## SECTION B: Writing

In this section, you will be marked on the **accuracy and creativity of your writing**.

*Take care with spelling, punctuation, sentence construction and your use of paragraphs*

5. You should write a response to **one** of the following two questions:

**Either:**

- a. Write about a time you discovered something important. It could be something you had lost, it could be an object, it could be a place or a person. You can write about a real experience or you can make up a story.

In your writing you should:

- choose a clear viewpoint
- use a range of descriptive devices and powerful language
- think carefully about your structure

**[15 marks]**

**Or**

- b. *The Ring*

Write a story inspired by the ring that October finds in her garden. Use 'The Ring' as the title for your short story.

In your writing, you should:

- choose a clear viewpoint
- use a range of descriptive devices and powerful language
- think carefully about your structure

**[15 marks]**

**You should use the space on the next pages to write your answer.**







