



WHITGIFT

**ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION SAMPLE QUESTIONS  
FOR 12+ and 13+ AGE GROUPS**

- Group C – boys aged 12+ on 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Group D – boys aged 13+ on 1<sup>st</sup> September

The following should take 70 minutes to complete

Spend equal time on each section

## Section A

Read 'High Dive' and then answer the questions

### High Dive

It feels very lonely, up here against the clouds  
and girders of the glass roof. The pool so far away,  
framed in flowers of a thousand upturned faces.

5 Walk to the brink, turn, and carefully  
(firm toes gripping this last hold of life)  
hang heels in space. Face a blank wall.

Raise arms slowly, sideways, shoulder-high,  
silent passion, dream-deep concentration  
foretelling every second of the coming flight.

10 Then with a sudden upward beat of palms,  
of arms like wings, gathering more than thought  
launch backwards into take-off, into one ball

roll for a quadruple reverse somersault  
that at the last second flicks  
15 open like a switchblade -

feet pointed as in prayer, neat folded hands  
stab the heavens like a dagger, plunge  
deep into the pool's azure flesh – without a splash.

*James Kirkup*

1. Explain how the speaker of the poem feels in lines 1-3 and why.
2. Describe, as exactly as you can, the position of the diver in the second stanza.
3. Describe in detail how the rhythm of lines 10-15 reflects the movement of the dive.
4. Identify four images in lines 15-18, explain what they are describing, and say how effective each is.

## Section B

Write a detailed description of a physical activity which you have carried out. Do not write a poem, but try to capture the feeling of the movements vividly and accurately.