



DOWNE HOUSE

16+ ENTRANCE PAPER 2012/2013

ENGLISH

Time: 60 minutes

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Please put your name, subject and school at the top of each page used.

- Spend **at least** 15 minutes reading, thinking and planning.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your understanding, your skills of analysis, and the accuracy and quality of your written expression.

Read the following poem then answer the question that follows.

**Tony Harrison** was born in Leeds in 1937. The following poem was inspired by the death of his mother.

**Timer**

Gold survives the fire that's hot enough  
to make you ashes in a standard urn.  
An envelope of coarse official buff  
contains your wedding ring which wouldn't burn.

Dad told me I'd to tell them at St James's  
that the ring should go in the incinerator.  
That 'eternity' inscribed with both their names is  
his surety that they'd be together, 'later'.

I signed for the parcelled clothing as the son,  
the cardy, apron, pants, bra, dress –

the clerk phoned down: 6-8-8-3-1?  
*Has she still her ring on?* (Slight pause) *Yes!*

It's on my warm palm now, your burnished ring!

I feel your ashes, head, arms, breasts, womb, legs,  
sift through its circle slowly, like that thing  
you used to let me watch to time the eggs.

TONY HARRISON

## Question

Write a critical appreciation of the poem.

Feel free to write about those aspects that interest you and those aspects that you consider to be important. In addition, you may choose to comment on:

- the presentation of the speaker and his feelings
- the relationship between the speaker and his mother
- the use of imagery
- the poem's structure (how it is organised).

Aim to write two sides; you may, of course, write more.

**This is the end of the examination.**

**Please check your work carefully.**