

Department of Education, Ontario

Annual Examinations, 1956

Friday, 15th June: 1.30-4.00 pm

GRADE XIII

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

NOTE. *The candidate shall not use in his essay any name which might indicate his examination centre.*

1. Write an essay about two pages in length (300 to 500 words) on *one* of the following topics.
 - (a) Canada in the world to-day.
 - (b) In defence of platitudes.
 - (c) What future for radio?
 - (d) The place of gadgets in modern life.
 - (e) Amateur dramatics.
 - (f) "To travel hopefully is better than to arrive."
 - (g) My place in the family group.
 - (h) The local newspaper. (Do not use actual names.)
 - (i) The sky is always interesting.
2. Write each of the following sentences in an improved form. In each case, explain and justify your revision in *one* complete sentence.
 - (a) His father was one of the meanest and most influential men in town, which made the policeman unwilling to arrest him for speeding.
 - (b) Without a single opposing vote, he was unanimously selected as the leader in the enterprise.
 - (c) We do not tear your clothes with machinery; we do it carefully by hand.
3. Reduce the following passage to about 120 words. Your version should be in connected prose, and should contain the essence of the original expressed mainly in your own words.

The matters with which science has hitherto been chiefly concerned are comparatively indifferent to us. For that reason science has been so successful. When Galileo investigated the law governing the motion of falling bodies, we cannot imagine that he cared in the least what the law would turn out to be. He could search for the truth with a single mind because none of his emotions could be outraged by the result. Similarly, Newton's demonstration of the law of inverse squares roused no horror anywhere. Nobody had a strong emotional preference for the law of inverse cubes.

Towards most of the results of science we are indifferent; their charm lies in the fact that they illustrate a harmony. Any other results would do, provided they illustrated an equally

beautiful harmony. The empirical fact that the velocity of light is nearer to 186,000 miles per second than it is to double that figure, excites no particular interest. But the fact that there must be an unsurpassable critical velocity in the sort of universe we live in, is a matter of great interest.

Our reaction to most scientific facts is one of indifference, and our reaction to most scientific theories is one of aesthetic appreciation. But when a scientific theory has a philosophic, religious, or, briefly, a “human” interest, we find at once that we are no longer content with our role of disinterested seeker after truth. The opposition encountered by the Copernican theory and the Darwinian theory gives sufficient evidence of this. The splendid moral integrity manifested in scientific work, therefore, is due very largely to the nature of scientific material. It shows us the height to which man can rise, provided that a part only of his nature is involved. Science is truthful because it has practically no temptation to be anything else. In his work the scientific man is an artist, and his moral standard is superb, but the value of his example to the rest of mankind is limited by the fact that, in his work, the scientific man is not completely a man. (348 words)

From *The Limitations of Science* by J.W.N. Sullivan

4. (a) From the following sentence select *three* subordinate clauses and state the kind and relation of each.

When my holiday came to an end in October, I went to Quebec to meet my sister and her husband, who had written me that they were about to arrive there.

- (b) Show *briefly* how the arrangement and construction of the clauses in the following paragraph help to make plain the author’s idea.

Progress happens, in short, whenever men can endure one tendency for a long time; and reaction happens whenever some particular man can endure it no longer. These definitions are simple, but I believe them to be comprehensive. A progressive is always a conservstive, — he conserves the direction of progress; a reactionary is always a rebel.