Your Name: ____________________________________________________________

Your School: ____________________________________________________________

Time allowed: 1 hour

Equipment needed: Pen and lined paper.

Information for candidates:

1. Dictionaries are NOT allowed.
2. Write your name and school on this page.
3. Write your answers on the separate paper provided. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use.
4. There are 2 sections in this paper Section A and B. You should attempt both of them.
5. The paper will be marked out of 40. The marks for each question are indicated in square brackets [ ].
Read the following extract and answer all the questions that follow:

The writer is in a junk shop looking for antiques when he discovers something special:

I am once again the child in the attic, when I notice some taxidermy\(^1\) specimens out of reach on top of a mound of boxes stacked and out of reach. I climb carefully imagining I am in the tomb of the Pharos. I peer into a glass case, finding an angle on it to get a clear view of its contents, correcting for reflection. What confronts me is the beady glare of a lean, contoured, elegantly streaked, stout-chested and imperious bird of prey.

Looming over me, it looks larger than its two-foot length, given added stature by imposingly powerful wings. Its wings are partly drooped over the prone body of a Magpie, which it dwarfs, and on the breast of which the raptor's\(^2\) arched talons are emphatically clamped. The bird is muscular of chest and thigh, but beautifully streamlined, long-legged, with a thickly feathered tail, stout shins, and breast feathers decorated with chocolate-brown arrowheads, as though dabbed with an artist’s brush. There is a hint of saffron about the feathers, and the flecking of chocolate-brown is, in places, star-shaped and faintly dazzling.

She is glaring at me, or through me, and to the world, through surprisingly authentic and piercing yellow-irised glass eyes. Defiance radiates from her, even in this caricatured state. It is most unsettling. Exhausting, dare I say. I have eyes only for this piece of junk.

It stirs another memory, of first discovering birds like these – this species in particular – in books, as a child. Somehow this stuffed skin has retained that ferocity and intensity that struck me at a young age when I first encountered these birds of prey on the page. It made me fall for them then, in a way that was to last. In a strange way I am connecting with my childhood after decades in a junk shop. Even in this state and pose, the bird I am now stroking is beautiful with a heavy hint of menace. It is tempting to see anger here, laced with fear, and the noble bearing reflected in the Goshawk’s modern day scientific name: \textit{Accipiter gentilis}.

This is a piece of natural engineering perfection, a bird beyond birds, a bird with an almost human expression, a furrowed brow that says something back to me about me, about us. It is a look that has haunted me ever since, and held me in a kind of spell. A dream: both a fanciful notion, a semi-fantasy, and a mythical best with the properties of several beasts rolled into one.

\textit{Taken from Looking for the Goshawk} by Conor Mark Jameson

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\(^1\) Taxidermy - the art of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of animals with lifelike effect.

\(^2\) Raptor – a bird of prey
1. Why does the writer climb carefully on line 2? [2 marks]

2. Why do you think that the writer imagines that he is in the tomb of the Pharos on line 3? [2 marks]

3. Choose three short phrases where the writer describes the bird and explain what you think they show and why he has selected the particular words he uses. [6 marks]

4. Why do you think that the Goshawk is important to the writer? [10 marks]

SECTION B

Choose ONE of the question below. You do not have to write a long piece. Think about using good vocabulary and writing accurately. [20 marks]

1. Describe an animal that interests you and explain why it is important to you.

2. Describe a childhood memory and explain why it is still significant to you.