



**RADLEY**

**Academic Scholarship Examination Paper**

**STAGE ONE**

**ENGLISH**

**22 January 2025**

Time allowed – 2 hours

*45 minutes:* Section A – Comprehension (20 marks)

*30 minutes:* Section B – Imaginative Writing (10 marks)

*45 minutes:* Section C – Discursive Writing (20 marks)

Complete all three sections.

Write in full sentences throughout.

You are expected to write accurate, well-punctuated prose.

Write your answers on separate pieces of paper.

## Section A: Comprehension

### The English Astronaut

He splashed down in rough seas off Spurn Point.  
I watched through a coin-op telescope jammed  
with a lollipop stick as a trawler fished him out  
of the waves and ferried him back to Mission  
Control on a trading estate near the Humber Bridge.  
He spoke with a mild voice: yes, it was good to be  
home; he'd missed his wife, the kids, couldn't wait  
for a shave and a hot bath. 'Are there any more  
questions?' No, there were not.

I followed him in his Honda Accord to a Little  
Chef on the A1, took the table opposite, watched  
him order the all-day breakfast and a pot of tea.  
'You need to go outside to do that,' said the  
waitress when he lit a cigarette. He read the paper,  
started the crossword, poked at the black pudding  
with his fork. Then he stared through the window  
for long unbroken minutes at a time, but only at the  
busy road, never the sky. And his face was not  
the moon. And his hands were not the hands of a man  
who had held between finger and thumb the blue  
planet, and lifted it up to his watchmaker's eye.

*Simon Armitage*

**Answer the following question in full sentences.**

**Make close reference to the poem, by quoting.**

*How does the poet use language, form, and structure to present the astronaut and his experiences? (20 marks)*

**Section B: Imaginative Writing – answer only one of the following questions in this section.**

*Describe a person who is arriving in a new place. (10 marks)*

*OR*

*Write the opening of a story entitled ‘Tomorrow’s World’. (10 marks)*

**Your piece should be as interesting and accurately written as possible.**

**Section C: Discursive Writing**

*‘The future is bright. We should look ahead with optimism.’*

*Respond to this statement in any way you like. (20 marks)*

**End of Paper**