**Colet Court Transfer Examination: English Practice Paper 2016**

**You have 2 hours to answer all three sections**

Each of the sections is worth 30 marks.

Vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar are important and will constitute 10 marks for this paper overall

It is suggested that you spend approximately 40 minutes on each section.

**Section A – Reading (poetry)**

Read carefully the untitled poem by Simon Armitage in which the speaker, who seems to be autobiographical, describes an event in his life, then answer the question below:

**How does the poet use language, imagery and form to convey the speaker’s range of conflicting emotions in this poem?**

**You may wish to consider:**

* **His feelings when he was thirteen and his feelings now, looking back**
* **Language associated with romance**
* **The form the poet chooses, and how he deviates from its characteristics**

I am very bothered when I think

of the bad things I have done in my life.

Not least that time in the chemistry lab

when I held a pair of scissors by the blades

and played the handles

in the naked lilac flame of the Bunsen burner;

then called your name, and handed them over.

O the unrivalled stench of branded skin

as you slipped your thumb and middle finger in,

then couldn't shake off the two burning rings. Marked,

the doctor said, for eternity.

Don't believe me, please, if I say

that was just my butterfingered way, at thirteen,

of asking you if you would marry me.

**Section B – Reading (prose)**

Read carefully the extract overleaf from the novel *Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe (1722) in which the narrator, Moll Flanders, describes an event in her life. Then answer the question below:

**How does the writer use language, imagery and sentence structure to influence the reader’s view of Moll Flanders in this extract?**

In your answer you may consider:

* Moll’s account of her past
* The difficulties Moll faces in the present day
* The way that Moll presents the pickpocketing incident to the reader

The prospect of my own starving, which grew every day more frightful to me, hardened my heart by degrees. It was then particularly heavy upon my mind, that I had been reformed, and had, as I hoped, repented of all my past wickedness; that I had lived a sober, grave, retired life for several years, but now I should be driven by the dreadful necessity of my circumstances to the gates of destruction, soul and body; and two or three times I fell upon my knees, praying to God, as well as I could, for deliverance; but I cannot but say, my prayers had no hope in them. I knew not what to do; it was all fear without, and dark within; and I reflected on my past life as not sincerely repented of, that Heaven was now beginning to punish me on this side the grave, and would make me as miserable as I had been wicked.

Had I gone on here I had perhaps been a true penitent; but I had an evil counsellor within, and he was continually prompting me to relieve myself by the worst means; so one evening he tempted me again, by the same wicked impulse that had said “Take that bundle,” to go out again and seek for what might happen.

I went out now by daylight, and wandered about I knew not whither, and in search of I knew not what, when the devil put a snare in my way of a dreadful nature indeed, and such a one as I have never had before or since. Going through Aldersgate Street, there was a pretty little child who had been at a dancing-school, and was going home, all alone; and my prompter, like a true devil, set me upon this innocent creature. I talked to it, and it prattled to me again, and I took it by the hand and led it along till I came to a paved alley that goes into Bartholomew Close, and I led it in there. The child said that was not its way home. I said, “Yes, my dear, it is; I’ll show you the way home.” The child had a little necklace on of gold beads, and I had my eye upon that, and in the dark of the alley I stooped, pretending to mend the child’s clog that was loose, and took off her necklace, and the child never felt it, and so led the child on again. Here, I say, the devil put me upon killing the child in the dark alley, that it might not cry, but the very thought frighted me so that I was ready to drop down; but I turned the child about and bade it go back again, for that was not its way home.

The thoughts of this booty put out all the thoughts of the first, and the reflections I had made wore quickly off; poverty, as I have said, hardened my heart, and my own necessities made me regardless of anything. The last affair left no great concern upon me, for as I did the poor child no harm, I only said to myself, I had given the parents a just reproof for their negligence in leaving the poor little lamb to come home by itself, and it would teach them to take more care of it another time.

I did the child no harm; I did not so much as fright it, for I had a great many tender thoughts about me yet, and did nothing but what, as I may say, mere necessity drove me to.

**SECTION C: WRITING**

***Write on any ONE of the following topics.***

***Credit will be given for good spelling, punctuation and presentation as well as for imaginative and exciting use of vocabulary.***

1. Caution and risk

Think about the advantages of being cautious and the advantages of taking risks. Write a speech in which you argue the importance of one rather than the other. You may wish to include:

• the advantages and disadvantages of each

• who might be affected, other than yourself

• examples to illustrate your view

2. Doing the right thing

Was there a time when you did what you knew to be right, even though it was at your own expense? Or you did not do what you knew to be right, but wish that you had?

Write about it, in the form of a letter to a friend.

3. Think about a time when either you or a member of your family suffered an embarrassing moment in public.

Describe this event in an entertaining and humorous way.

4. ‘A good book should make you walk into lampposts.’ (Nick Hornby)

You have probably never done this, but have you ever read a book which gripped you so much that you became unaware of your surroundings?

Explain why this book had such an impact on you.