



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

Entrance Examination

English Essay

2020

45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- Answer one question
- Spend roughly 10 minutes planning your answer
- Marks are awarded for the accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar

Answer ONE question from this section.

- 1. Read the extract from Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*, in which he meets Miss Dartle for the first time, and answer the question below.**

There was a second lady in the dining-room, of a slight short figure, dark, and not agreeable to look at, but with some appearance of good looks too, who attracted my attention: perhaps because I had not expected to see her; perhaps because I found myself sitting opposite to her; perhaps because of something really remarkable in her. She had black hair and eager black eyes, and was thin, and had a scar upon her lip. It was an old scar—I should rather call it seam, for it was not discoloured, and had healed years ago—which had once cut through her mouth, downward towards the chin, but was now barely visible across the table, except above and on her upper lip, the shape of which it had altered. I concluded in my own mind that she was about thirty years of age, and that she wished to be married. She was a little dilapidated¹—like a house—with having been so long to let; yet had, as I have said, an appearance of good looks. Her thinness seemed to be the effect of some wasting fire within her, which found a vent in her gaunt eyes.

Imagine you are Miss Dartle and tell the story of your scar. In your answer, you should:

- Say how you got the scar
- The effect it has had on you through your life
- How you feel about it now

[30 marks]

- 2. The Government announces that English will no longer be a compulsory subject in schools. Write to the Prime Minister to persuade him to keep English compulsory.**

[30 marks]

¹ Dilapidated = run-down.