



St Paul's School
FOUNDED 1509

16+ Examination

English Literature

SAMPLE PAPER

45 Minutes

Instructions to Candidates:

- You are strongly advised to spend time reading and planning before you start writing.
- Dictionaries are not allowed.
- Please answer on lined paper.
- Write your full name and current school at the top of each new sheet.

Read the poem on the next page carefully and write on the following task.

Explore the ways in which the poet conveys her experience of communicating with her lover.

[25 marks]

In the course of your response, you should consider carefully,

- the poet's use of language, technique and imagery;
- the form and structure of the poem; and,
- any other features of the poem you consider significant or interesting.

Quickdraw

I wear the two, the mobile and the landline phones,
like guns, slung from the pockets on my hips. I'm all
alone. You ring, quickdraw, your voice a pellet
in my ear, and hear me groan.

You've wounded me.

Next time, you speak after the tone. I twirl the phone,
then squeeze the trigger of my tongue, wide of the mark.
You choose your spot, then blast me

through the heart.

And this is love, high noon, calamity, hard liquor
in the old Last Chance saloon. I show the mobile
to the sheriff; in my boot, another one's

concealed. You text them both at once. I reel.
Down on my knees, I fumble for the phone,
read the silver bullets of your kiss. Take this...
and this... and this... and this... and this...

Carol Ann Duffy