

WINCHESTER

COLLEGE

Election 2023

General Paper II (A7)

Wednesday 3rd May 1605-1735

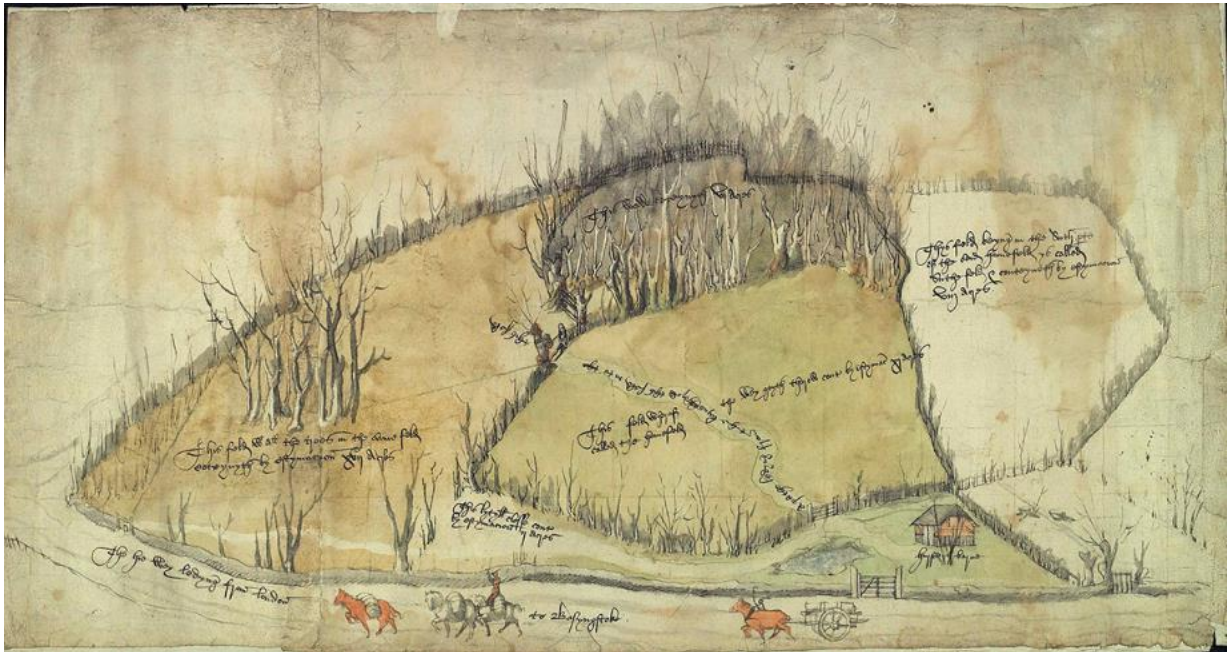
Leave this question paper behind at the end of the exam

Time allowed: 90 minutes

Candidates should attempt all three questions. The marks available for each question are indicated on the paper.

Begin each question on a new sheet of paper.

General Paper II 2023



This picture of fields at Andwell, near Basingstoke, is one of the earliest known watercolour views of an English landscape. Winchester College has owned land at Andwell since its foundation in the fourteenth century. Documents in Winchester College's archives indicate that the map was made to settle a legal dispute over the land's ownership, which lasted for several decades during the sixteenth century.

1. Do borders make or break the world?

Your answer should include:

- a clearly defined argument
- examples from history and current events to support your argument
- evaluation of the significance of your examples

[15 marks]

I come now near the heart of what seems to me to be the single greatest danger in the rich legacy left us by Linnaeus¹ and the other founding fathers of all our sciences and scientific mores and methods—or more fairly, left us by our leaping evolutionary ingenuity in the invention of tools. All tools, from the simplest word to the most advanced space probe, are disturbers and rearrangers of primordial nature and reality—are, in the dictionary definition, ‘mechanical implements for working upon something.’ What they have done, and I suspect in direct proportion to our ever-increasing dependence on them, is to addict us to our purpose: both to looking for purpose in everything external to us and to looking internally for purpose in everything we do—to seek explanation of the outside world by purpose, to justify our seeking by purpose. This addiction to finding a reason, a function, a quantifiable yield, has now infiltrated all aspects of our lives—and become effectively synonymous with pleasure. The modern version of hell is purposelessness.

Nature suffers particularly in this, and our indifference and hostility to it is closely connected with the fact that its only purpose appears to be being and surviving. We may think that this comprehends all animate existence, including our own; and so it must, ultimately; but we have long ceased to be content with so abstract a motive. A scientist would rightly say that all form and behaviour in nature is highly purposive, or strictly designed for the end of survival—specific or genetic, according to theory. But most of this functional purpose is hidden to the non-scientist, indecipherable; and the immense variety of nature appears to hide nothing, nothing but a green chaos at the core—which we brilliantly purposive apes can use and exploit as we please, with a free conscience.

A green chaos. Or a wood.

John Fowles, *The Tree* (1979)

2. What do you think John Fowles means when he writes that ‘the modern version of hell is purposelessness’?

In your answer, you should consider:

- Fowles’s description of human society
- the relationship between society and nature
- how things might be improved

[15 marks]

3. Write a description of a landscape with the title ‘A Green Chaos’.

Your answer should include:

- imagery that vividly captures the appearance of the landscape
- writing that appeals to the senses
- a rich variety of vocabulary, syntax and perspectives

[15 marks]

¹ Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778): Swedish scientist.