



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination, 2003

## English - Higher Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 4th June – Afternoon, 1.30 – 4.50

Candidates must attempt the following:-

- **ONE** question from SECTION I – The Single Text
- **ONE** question from SECTION II – The Comparative Study
- **THE QUESTIONS** on the Unseen Poem from SECTION III – Poetry
- **ONE** question on Prescribed Poetry from SECTION III – Poetry

**N.B.** Candidates must answer on Shakespearean Drama.

They may do so in SECTION I, The Single Text (*Macbeth*)

or in SECTION II, The Comparative Study (*Macbeth, Othello, Twelfth Night*)

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## SECTION I

### THE SINGLE TEXT (60 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from this section (A – E).

#### A WUTHERING HEIGHTS – Emily Brontë

- (i) “*Wuthering Heights* is a novel full of passionate extremes.”

Write a response to the above statement supporting your views by reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) “The novel, *Wuthering Heights*, is dominated from start to finish by the character of Heathcliff.”

To what extent would you agree with the above view of the novel? Support your answer by reference to the text.

#### B THE REMAINS OF THE DAY – Kazuo Ishiguro

- (i) “*The Remains of the Day* is a fascinating study of lost potential, of what might have been.”

Discuss this view of the novel, supporting the points you make by reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) Write an essay on one or more aspects of *The Remains of the Day* that particularly appealed to you as a reader. Support your answer by reference to the text.

#### C DEATH OF A SALESMAN – Arthur Miller

- (i) “*Death of a Salesman* is a tragedy about an ordinary man in an unforgiving world.”

What is your opinion of this assessment of the play? Support your answer by reference to the play.

**OR**

- (ii) “BIFF: We never told the truth for ten minutes in this house!”

What do you think of this judgement of the Loman family? Support your answer by reference to the play.

**D** **AMONGST WOMEN** – John McGahern

- (i) “*Amongst Women* is a novel in which everything revolves around the concerns of the central character, Michael Moran.”

Write a response to this view of the novel.

**OR**

- (ii) “Issues of family loyalty are central to *Amongst Women*.”

Discuss this view supporting your points by reference to the text.

**E** **MACBETH** – William Shakespeare

- (i) “We feel very little pity for the central characters of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in Shakespeare’s play.”

To what extent would you agree with the above view? Support your answer by reference to the play.

**OR**

- (ii) “In *Macbeth*, Shakespeare presents us with a powerful vision of evil.”

Write your response to the above statement. Textual support may include reference to a particular performance of the play you have seen.

## SECTION II

### THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from **either A – The Cultural Context or B – The General Vision and Viewpoint**.

In your answer you may not use the text you have answered on in **SECTION I – The Single Text**.

**N.B.** The questions use the word **text** to refer to all the different kinds of texts available for study on this course, i.e. novel, play, short story, autobiography, biography, travel, and film. The questions use the word **author** to refer to novelists, playwrights, writers in all genre, and film-directors.

#### **A THE CULTURAL CONTEXT**

1. Write an essay in which you compare the texts you have studied in your comparative course in the light of your understanding of the term, the cultural context. (70)

**OR**

2. (a) With reference to **one** of the texts you have studied in your comparative course, write a note on the way/s in which the cultural context is established by the author. (30)
- (b) Compare the ways in which the cultural context is established by the authors of **two other texts** on your comparative course. (40)

## **B THE GENERAL VISION AND VIEWPOINT**

1. “The general vision and viewpoint of texts can be quite similar or very different.”

In the light of the above statement, compare the general vision and viewpoint in at least two texts on your comparative course. (70)

**OR**

2. (a) What did you enjoy about the exploration of the general vision and viewpoint in **any one** of the texts you read as part of your comparative study? Support your answer by reference to the text. (30)
- (b) Write a short comparison between **two other texts** from your course in the light of your answer to part (a) above. Support the comparisons you make by reference to the texts. (40)



## SECTION III

### POETRY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **A** – Unseen Poem **and B** – Prescribed Poetry.

#### **A UNSEEN POEM** (20 marks)

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

*The poet, Rosita Boland, reflects on the tragedy of a war-torn region in our world.*

#### **BUTTERFLIES**

In Bosnia, there are landmines  
Decorated with butterflies  
And left on the grassy pathways  
Of rural villages.

The children come, quivering down  
Familiar lanes and fields.  
Hands outstretched, they reach triumphant  
For these bright, elusive insects –  
Themselves becoming winged in the act;  
Gaudy and ephemeral.

1. Write a short response to the above poem, highlighting the impact it makes on you. (20)

**OR**

2. Comment on the following statements supporting your answers by reference to the poem, *Butterflies*.

(a) The poem makes very effective use of irony. (10)

(b) The poem uses beautiful language to capture an ugly reality. (10)

## B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** of the following questions (1 – 4).

1. “Why read the poetry of John Donne?”

Write out the text of a talk that you would give, or an article that you would submit to a journal, in response to the above title. Support the points you make by reference to the poetry of John Donne on your course.

2. “We enjoy poetry for its ideas and for its language.”

Using the above statement as your title, write an essay on the poetry of Robert Frost. Support your points by reference to the poetry by Robert Frost on your course.

3. If you were asked to give a public reading of a small selection of Sylvia Plath’s poems, which ones would you choose to read? Give reasons for your choices supporting them by reference to the poems on your course.

4. *Dear Seamus Heaney ...*

Write a letter to Seamus Heaney telling him how you responded to some of his poems on your course. Support the points you make by detailed reference to the poems you choose to write about.

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