



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2003

## English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- The questions on **ONE** of the Prescribed Poems from SECTION III – Poetry

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# SECTION I

## THE SINGLE TEXT (60 MARKS)

Candidates must answer on **ONE** text (A – I).

### A **WUTHERING HEIGHTS** – Emily Brontë

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. Describe what happened on the night that Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw are found looking in the window of Thrushcross Grange, the home of Edgar and Isabella Linton. (10)
2. (a) Why, in your opinion, does Catherine decide to marry Edgar Linton? (10)  
(b) How does her marriage to Edgar affect her relationship with Heathcliff? (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Imagine you were a servant in **either** *Wuthering Heights* **or** Thrushcross Grange. Write a short description of the people you work for and how you feel about them.  
**OR**
  - (ii) “Despite her beauty and passion, Catherine Earnshaw is not a very likeable person.” Would you agree with this view of Catherine? Support your answer by reference to the text.  
**OR**
  - (iii) Which character, in your view, is the real hero of *Wuthering Heights*? Support your answer by reference to the text.

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

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) What, in your opinion, is most important to Mr Stevens, the central character in *The Remains of the Day*? Give a reason for your answer. (10)  
(b) Write a brief description of an event in the novel that shows clearly the kind of person Stevens is. (10)  
(c) Choose from the following three statements the one that is closest to your own feelings about the character of Mr. Stevens as you read the novel:-
  - *I felt sorry for him*
  - *I admired the way he lived his life*
  - *I was angry at him sometimes*Explain why you felt this way about him, supporting your answer by reference to the text. (10)

**B** (Continued)

2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

(i) “Stevens does not deserve the love of Miss Kenton.” To what extent would you agree with this view of the relationship between Mr Stevens and Miss Kenton? Support your view by reference to the text.

**OR**

(ii) What is your view of the behaviour and attitudes of Lord Darlington as they are revealed in the novel? Support your answer by reference to the text.

**OR**

(iii) What advice do you think Mr Stevens would give to a person who was thinking of looking for work as a butler or servant in the home of a very wealthy family?

**C** **HOW MANY MILES TO BABYLON** – Jennifer Johnston

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Briefly describe Alec’s home life with his mother and father. (10)

(b) In your opinion, why did Alicia, Alec’s mother, encourage him to go to fight in the war? (10)

2. Do you think that Alec was a good friend to Jerry? Explain your answer. (10)

3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

(i) Imagine you were with Alec and Jerry on the battlefields of World War I. Write some short diary entries telling what life was like.

**OR**

(ii) “Mother, just a few lines to tell you what I think of you...”  
Complete this letter from Alec to his mother, Alicia, saying the things you think he should have said to her.

**OR**

(iii) What is your opinion of Major Glendinning, Alec’s commanding officer? Explain your opinion.



## **D DEATH OF A SALESMAN – Arthur Miller**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1.
  - (a) Briefly describe what happens in the scene where Biff discovers his father in the hotel room with the woman. (10)
  - (b) Do you think that Willy Loman was a good father to his children? (10)
  - (c) Why, in your opinion, is Willy Loman so dissatisfied with how his life has turned out? (10)
  
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Write a short letter to Linda, Willy's wife, telling her what you think of the way Willy treated her throughout his life.

**OR**
  - (ii) Do you like the picture of American life as it is portrayed in the play? Give reasons for your answer.

**OR**
  - (iii) If you were asked to play the part of one of the characters in a production of *Death of a Salesman*, which character would you choose to play? Explain how you would play your part in one very dramatic scene of the play.

## **E LIES OF SILENCE - Brian Moore**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1.
  - (a) Describe what happened when Michael took the bomb to the hotel. (10)
  - (b) Why was his decision to ring the police so difficult for him? (10)
  - (c) Do you think that Michael was a good man? Explain your view. (10)
  
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) "*A gripping read which you will find impossible to put down.*"  
What is your response to this statement about the novel? Refer to the novel in your answer.

**OR**
  - (ii) Imagine Moira, Michael's wife, were to make a short speech at his funeral. What do you think she would say about Michael and the people who murdered him?

**OR**
  - (iii) Imagine Moira met Andrea after Michael's death. Write the conversation that you think might have occurred between them.

**F AMONGST WOMEN – John McGahern**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe briefly the events of the day that Michael Moran and Rose were married. (10)
- (b) Do you think their marriage was a happy one? Give reasons for your answer, supporting them by reference to the events of the novel. (10)
2. Did you find Michael Moran, the father in the story, a likeable character? Support your answer by reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) “Moran seems to get on much better with the women in his life than with the men.” Do you agree with this view? Support your answer by reference to the novel.  
**OR**
  - (ii) “The Moran family would find it very hard to adapt to the Ireland of 2003.” What do you think of the above view? Support your answer by reference to the novel.  
**OR**
  - (iii) Which of Moran’s sons, Luke or Michael, would you prefer to have as a friend? Support your view by reference to the novel.

**G THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS – Sean O’Casey**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) In *The Plough and the Stars*, do you think that Nora was a good homemaker? Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) Describe Jack Clitheroe’s behaviour towards Nora, his wife, when she came to beg him to leave the fighting and come home with her. (10)
2. Bessy Burgess cared for Nora after she went insane. Describe what happened to her and Nora at the end of the play. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) “In *The Plough and the Stars* the male characters are weak and stupid; the female characters are strong and brave.”  
What is your response to this statement? Refer to **one** male and **one** female character in your answer.  
**OR**
  - (ii) Which character in the play did you most admire? Give reasons for your answer.  
**OR**
  - (iii) There are many funny moments in the play, *The Plough and the Stars*.  
Give an account of a funny moment in the play and say why you found it to be so.



## H MACBETH – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe what happens on the night that Macbeth murders Duncan, King of Scotland. (10)
- (b) Do you think that becoming king made Macbeth happy? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
2. As the play progresses, what in your view are the things that finally destroy Macbeth? (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Imagine that, after the death of Macbeth, members of the public could apply for the job of King or Queen of Scotland. Write the letter of application that you would send in for either job.

**OR**
  - (ii) “The Witches play a very important part in Shakespeare’s play, *Macbeth*.” To what extent do you agree with the above statement? Support your answer by reference to the play.

**OR**
  - (iii) “*Macbeth* is a play that is full of action and excitement for the audience.” Do you agree with the above view of the play? Support your answer by reference to the play.

## I THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS – Mildred Taylor

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe briefly one event in the novel, *The Road to Memphis*, that showed the kind of life lived by Cassie Logan. (10)
- (b) Do you feel that, in general, life has treated Cassie fairly? Support your answer by reference to the text. (10)
2. What did you think was the most important moment in the novel? Give reasons for your answer, supporting them by reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Imagine that Statler Aames is to go on trial on a charge of racism. Write a short article for a newspaper outlining the background to the trial.

**OR**
  - (ii) From the following list of comments about the book, choose the one that you think is most true, supporting your choice by reference to the text.

*The Road to Memphis* is a book that

    - *is full of excitement and adventure*
    - *makes people think about serious issues*
    - *is true to life*

**OR**
  - (iii) Do you think there are any similarities between the kind of world in which *The Road to Memphis* is set and the Ireland of today? Give reasons for your answer.

## SECTION II

### THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

Candidates must answer **ONE** question from **either A – Theme or B – Hero, Heroine, Villain**.

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 THEME

1. (a) Name a theme that was explored in a text you studied for your comparative course and show how important it was in the life of one of the characters from the text. (30)
- (b) Compare the way in which the **same theme** was important in the life of a character from another text on your comparative course. (40)

**OR**

2. Write down the theme that was common to two of the texts you have studied for your comparative course and then complete the following statements, (a) and (b).
  - (a) “*The theme was clearest to me in the first text when...*” (30)
  - (b) “*You could clearly see the same theme in the second text when...*” (40)

#### B HERO, HEROINE, VILLAIN

1. (a) Say why you liked or disliked the hero or heroine or villain in a text you have studied for your comparative course. (30)
- (b) Compare this character with the hero or heroine or villain from another text you have studied. (40)

**OR**

2. From the texts you have studied for your comparative course, choose a hero or heroine or villain that was a very memorable character. Name the character and the text. Write out the replies the character would make to the following questions:
  - (a) *Why will readers remember you so well?* (30)
  - (b) *In what ways are you similar to or different from a character in another text?* (40)



## SECTION III

### POETRY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer the questions on the Unseen Poem **and** the questions on **one** of the Prescribed Poems – A, B, C, D.

#### UNSEEN POEM (20 marks)

*Read this poem at least twice and then respond to the questions that follow.*

#### **RUSH HOUR** (*for Grainne*)

I know the pedestrian light  
is in your favour  
and you must go and go now  
but I want to linger  
just a little longer in your embrace  
at the corner of Washington Street  
and South Main Street.  
I want to kiss  
each individual hair of your head  
from root to tip  
while the lights change and change again  
and the city grinds to a shuddering halt  
and the sky tilts over  
to reveal teeming constellations  
utterly silent, unbearably distant.

*Gerry Murphy*

1. Do you think that this is a good love poem? Give a reason. (10)
2. Write out the lines that in your opinion best capture the lover's feelings. Why did you choose them? (10)



## PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

You must answer on **ONE** of the following poems: (A - D)

### A. FUNERAL BLUES

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,  
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,  
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum  
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead  
Scribbling on the sky the message He Is Dead,  
Put the crêpe bows round the white necks of the public doves,  
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,  
My working week and my Sunday rest,  
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;  
I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;  
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;  
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood.  
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

*W. H. Auden*

1.
  - (a) How did this poem make you feel? (10)
  - (b) Do you think that the poet really loves the one who has died? Explain your answer. (10)
  - (c) Do you like the way the poet expresses sadness at the death of his friend? Give a reason. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
  - (i) Imagine that the poet wanted to choose a line or two from the poem to be written on his lover's tombstone. Which line or lines would you advise him to choose? Write the lines and give reasons for your choice.

**OR**
  - (ii) Imagine you wanted to perform this poem to music with a group of musical friends. How would you perform it so that people would remember the experience?

**OR**
  - (iii) What things did you learn about the poet W.H. Auden from reading the poem? Refer to the poem in your answer.



**B****VALENTINE**

Not a red rose or a satin heart.

I give you an onion.

It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.

It promises light

like the careful undressing of love.

Here.

It will blind you with tears

like a lover.

It will make your reflection

a wobbling photo of grief.

I am trying to be truthful.

Not a cute card or a kissogram.

I give you an onion.

Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,

possessive and faithful

as we are,

for as long as we are.

Take it.

Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding-ring,

if you like.

Lethal.

Its scent will cling to your anger,

cling to your knife.

*Carol Ann Duffy*

1.
  - (a) “I am trying to be truthful.”  
In your opinion, what is the speaker of the poem trying to tell her lover about her feelings? (10)
  - (b) Write down one line or phrase from the poem that tells you most about the kind of relationship the lovers have. Say why you think it is an important line. (10)
  - (c) How do you imagine a lover would feel if he or she received this poem on St. Valentine’s Day? Explain your answer. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
  - (i) In what way is this poem different from the normal poems or rhymes that lovers send to each other on Valentine’s Day?  
**OR**
  - (ii) In your opinion, what reply might the lover write to this Valentine? You may, if you wish, write your reply in verse.  
**OR**
  - (iii) “Lethal.  
Its scent will cling to your anger,  
cling to your knife.”  
Do you think that this is a good ending to the poem? Explain your view.

## C

## THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
 And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:  
 Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,  
 And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,  
 Dropping from the vales of the morning to where the cricket sings;  
 There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,  
 And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day  
 I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;  
 While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,  
 I hear it in the deep heart's core.

*W.B. Yeats*

1. (a) How in the first two stanzas of the above poem does the poet help us to imagine the kind of place Innisfree is? (10)
- (b) In your opinion what qualities of the place are most important to the poet, W.B. Yeats? Support your answer by reference to the text of the poem. (10)
2. This poem by Yeats is very popular among readers of poetry. From the following list of reasons why it is so popular, choose the one that is closest to your own view and explain your choice. Support your answer by illustration from the text.
  - *The descriptions of the place are very appealing*
  - *The poem contains many beautiful sounds*
  - *The main idea in the poem is attractive to people* (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
  - (i) "While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,  
 I hear it in the deep heart's core."  
  
 What do you understand these last two lines of the poem to mean?  
  
**OR**
  - (ii) Write a paragraph outlining the reasons why you like or dislike the poems by W.B. Yeats on your course.  
  
**OR**
  - (iii) Would Innisfree appeal to you as a place to live? Support your answer by reference to the poem.



**D****THE ARRIVAL OF THE BEE BOX**

I ordered this, this clean wood box  
Square as a chair and almost too heavy to lift.  
I would say it was the coffin of a midget  
Or a square baby  
Were there not such a din in it.

The box is locked, it is dangerous.  
I have to live with it overnight  
And I can't keep away from it.  
There are no windows, so I can't see what is in there.  
There is only a little grid, no exit.

I put my eye to the grid.  
It is dark, dark,  
With the swarmy feeling of African hands  
Minute and shrunk for export,  
Black on black, angrily clambering.

How can I let them out?  
It is the noise that appals me most of all,  
The unintelligible syllables.  
It is like a Roman mob,  
Small, taken one by one, but my god, together!

I lay my ear to furious Latin.  
I am not a Caesar.  
I have simply ordered a box of maniacs.  
They can be sent back.  
They can die, I need feed them nothing, I am the owner.

I wonder how hungry they are.  
I wonder if they would forget me  
If I just undid the locks and stood back and turned into a tree.  
There is the laburnum, its blond colonnades,  
And the petticoats of the cherry.

They might ignore me immediately  
In my moon suit and funeral veil.  
I am no source of honey  
So why should they turn on me?  
Tomorrow I will be sweet God, I will set them free.

The box is only temporary.

*Sylvia Plath*

1. (a) What impression of the poet, Sylvia Plath, do you get from reading this poem?  
(10)
- (b) What words or phrases from the poem especially help to create that impression for you?  
(10)

2. The following list of phrases suggests some of the poet's attitudes to the bee box:

- *She is fascinated by it*
- *She is annoyed by it*
- *She feels she has great power over it*

Choose the phrase from the above list that is closest to your own reading of the poem. Explain your choice, supporting your view by reference to the words of the poem.  
(10)

3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]

- (i) Imagine you were asked to select music to accompany a public reading of this poem. Describe the kind of music you would choose and explain your choice clearly.

**OR**

- (ii) "The box is only temporary."  
What do you understand the last line of the poem to mean?

**OR**

- (iii) Write a paragraph in which you outline the similarities **and/or** differences between *The Arrival of the Bee Box* and the other poem on your course by Sylvia Plath, *Child*.

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