



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2006

English - Higher Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 7 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
- **ONE** question 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 (*King Lear, As You Like It*)

or in SECTION II, The Comparative Study (*King Lear, As You Like It, Twelfth Night*)

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SECTION I

THE SINGLE TEXT (60 marks)

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

A **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** – Jane Austen

- (i) “What fascinates the reader of *Pride and Prejudice* is the relationship between the central characters of Elizabeth and Mr Darcy.”

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

OR

- (ii) “In *Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen laughs at the follies of her characters without being cruel to them.”

To what extent would you agree with this view? Support your points by reference to the text.

B **THE POISONWOOD BIBLE** – Barbara Kingsolver

- (i) “The main interest in *The Poisonwood Bible* lies in the Price family’s experiences of a strange and different world.”

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

OR

- (ii) Write out the text of a talk you would give in answer to the question: “Why read *The Poisonwood Bible*?” Support the points you make by reference to the novel.

C **DEATH AND NIGHTINGALES** – Eugene McCabe

- (i) “Violence and deception govern the relationships in *Death and Nightingales*.”

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

OR

- (ii) “The mood or atmosphere of *Death and Nightingales* is a bleak one.”

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

D AS YOU LIKE IT – William Shakespeare

- (i) What features of the drama, *As You Like It*, did you enjoy?
Support your answer by reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “In the play, *As You Like It*, Shakespeare upholds the value of romantic love.”
Discuss this view of the play, supporting your points by reference to the text.

E KING LEAR – William Shakespeare

- (i) “In the play, *King Lear*, the stories of Lear and Gloucester mirror one another in interesting ways.”

Write a response to this view of the play, supporting your answer by reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “Reading or seeing *King Lear* is a horrifying as well as an uplifting experience.”

Write a response to this view, supporting the points you make by reference to the text.

SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from **either A – Theme or Issue or B – The Cultural Context**.

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 writing, and film. The questions use the word **author** to refer to novelists, playwrights, writers in all genres, and film directors.

A THEME OR ISSUE

- 1.** “In careful reading/viewing of key moments of texts we often find important themes or issues which are developed in the text as a whole.”
- (a) Compare how key moments of two texts you have studied in your comparative course raised an important theme or issue. (40)
- (b) In the case of a third text show how a key moment helped in your understanding of the same theme or issue discussed in part (a). (30)

OR

- 2.** “The dramatic presentation of a theme or issue can add greatly to the impact of narrative texts.”

Write an essay comparing how the presentation of a theme or issue, common to the texts you have studied for your comparative course, added to the impact of the texts. (70)

B THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. “The cultural context of a narrative usually determines how the story will unfold.”

(a) Compare the way in which the cultural context influenced the storyline in **two** of the texts you have studied in your comparative course.

(40)

(b) Show how the cultural context influenced the storyline in a third text you have studied.

(30)

OR

2. “Understanding the cultural context of a text adds to our enjoyment of a good narrative.”

In the light of the above statement write an essay comparing the cultural contexts of the texts you have studied in your comparative course. Support the comparisons you make by reference to the texts.

(70)

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 Toy Horse

Somebody, when I was young, stole my toy horse,
The charm of my morning romps, my man's delight.
For two days I grieved, holding my sorrow like flowers
Between the bars of my sullen angry mind.

Next day I went out with evil in my heart,
Evil between my eyes and at the tips of my hands,
Looking for my enemy at the armed stations,
Until I found him, playing in his garden

With my toy horse, urgent in the battle
Against the enemies of his Unreason's land:
He was so happy, I gave him also
My vivid coloured crayons and my big glass marble.

Valentin Iremonger

1. Do you think the poem gives a surprising insight into a childhood experience?

In your answer you might consider:

- *the pattern of the child's thinking*
- *the words and images in the poem.*

(20)

OR

2. Write a response to the above poem, highlighting aspects of it that you liked and/or disliked.

(20)

B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

1. Write an introduction to the poetry of John Donne for new readers.

Your introduction should cover the following:

- *The ideas that were most important to him.*
- *How you responded to his use of language and imagery.*

Refer to the poems by John Donne that you have studied.

2. “What Thomas Hardy’s poetry means to me.”

Write an essay in response to the above title.

Your essay should include a discussion of his themes and the way he expresses them. Support the points you make by reference to the poetry on your course.

3. “Reading the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop.”

Write out the text of a talk that you would give to your class in response to the above title.

Your talk should include the following:

- *Your reactions to her themes or subject matter.*
- *What you personally find interesting in her style of writing.*

Refer to the poems by Elizabeth Bishop that you have studied.

4. “Writing to Michael Longley.”

Write a letter to Michael Longley telling him about your experience of studying his poetry. In your letter you should refer to his themes and the way he expresses them. Support the points you make by reference to the poetry on your course.

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