



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2007

English - Higher Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 6 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 (*Macbeth*) or in SECTION II, The Comparative Study (*Macbeth, Twelfth Night, As You Like It*).

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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) Jane Austen particularly liked Elizabeth Bennet as a character. Did you?

Write your personal response to the character of Elizabeth outlining the qualities that did or did not appeal to you. Your answer should make use of reference to the text in support of your points.

OR

- (ii) “Marriage rather than love is the central theme of *Pride and Prejudice*.”

Do you agree with this assessment of the novel? Give reasons for your answer supporting them with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

B WUTHERING HEIGHTS – Emily Brontë

- (i) “In *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë introduces us to a strange and supernatural world.”

Does she succeed in making this strange and supernatural world believable? Explain your answer, supporting your point of view with suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “We admire the younger Catherine (Linton) because she is so different from her mother (Cathy Earnshaw).”

Do you agree with this statement? Make an argument in support of your point of view with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

C THE POISONWOOD BIBLE – Barbara Kingsolver

- (i) “*Adah and I were trying to puzzle out how everything you thought you knew means something different in Africa.*”

Write a personal response to the world of Africa that you experienced as a reader of *The Poisonwood Bible*. Support your answer with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “*You can't just sashay into the jungle aiming to change it all over to the Christian style, without expecting the jungle to change you right back.*”

Discuss the way in which **any two** of the Price family were or were not changed as a result of their experiences in the Congo. Support your answer with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

D DEATH OF A SALESMAN – Arthur Miller

- (i) “Willy Loman is not a likeable character, but he attracts our sympathy.”

Write a response to this statement. Support your answer with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Write the text of a talk that you would give to your class outlining the reasons why the play *Death of a Salesman* is worth reading. Your talk should include detailed reference to the play.

E MACBETH – William Shakespeare

- (i) “The relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth undergoes significant change during the course of the play.”

Discuss this statement supporting your answer with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “Essentially the play *Macbeth* is about power, its use and abuse.”

Discuss this view of the play, supporting your answer with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from **either** A – The General Vision and Viewpoint **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 THE GENERAL VISION AND VIEWPOINT

1. “A reader’s understanding of the general vision and viewpoint is influenced by key moments in the text.”

(a) Choose a key moment from one of your chosen texts and show how it influenced your understanding of the general vision and viewpoint. (30)

(b) With reference to two other chosen texts compare the way in which key moments influence your understanding of the general vision and viewpoint of those texts. (40)

OR

2. “The general vision and viewpoint is shaped by the reader’s feeling of optimism or pessimism in reading the text.”

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

B THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. Imagine that you are a journalist sent to investigate the cultural context of the worlds of the three texts from your comparative course.

(a) Write an article on the cultural context that you found most interesting. (30)

(b) In a second article compare the cultural contexts of the other two worlds with each other. (40)

OR

2. “The cultural context can have a significant influence on the behaviour of the central character/characters in a text.”

Compare the way in which the behaviour of the central characters in **at least two** of your texts is influenced by the cultural context of those 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.

(Ben Ziman-Bright is a young poet from London. He won the Young Poets on the Underground Competition in 2004 with this poem. It was displayed on the London Underground.)

Rhapsody

Sat in the cheap seats
Of Symphony Hall, squinting
As the instruments tuned up,
I could pick out only you:
Fourth row back and clutching
Your viola, bright hair spilt
Across the strings. You were
Deep in a flurry of pages
With bitten lip, too
Intent on forcing that
Melody right to the cheap seats
To notice me up there, ears straining
To block out any sound but yours.

Ben Ziman-Bright

1. Describe the impact that this poem makes on you as a reader. (20)

OR

2. Discuss the ways in which this poem captures the emotions felt by the poet. (20)

B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

1. “Robert Frost – a poet of sadness?”

Write an introduction to the poetry of Robert Frost using the above title.

Your introduction should address his themes and the impact of his poetry on you as a reader. Support your points with reference to the poems you have studied.

2. The Poetry of T.S. Eliot – a personal journey.

Write a personal response to the poems by T.S. Eliot on your course. Support your points with reference to the poetry on your course.

3. The Impact of John Montague's Poetry

Write a speech to be delivered to your classmates on the impact that John Montague's poetry had on you. Your answer should focus on both themes and the use of imagery/language. Support your points with the aid of suitable reference to the poems on your course.

4. “The poetry of Sylvia Plath is intense, deeply personal, and quite disturbing.”

Do you agree with this assessment of her poetry? Write a response, supporting your points with the aid of suitable reference to the poems you have studied.

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