



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2013

English - Higher Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Thursday, 6 June – Afternoon, 2.00 – 5.20

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, The Winter's Tale*).

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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) In your opinion, to what extent are the values represented by the world of Thrushcross Grange defeated, in Brontë’s novel *Wuthering Heights*?

Support your answer with suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “Emily Brontë makes effective use of both Nelly Dean and Mr Lockwood in a variety of ways.”

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with suitable reference to the novel, *Wuthering Heights*.

B THE GREAT GATSBY – F. Scott Fitzgerald

- (i) “Readers of *The Great Gatsby* are greatly influenced by the narrator, Nick Carraway.”

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

OR

- (ii) “Readers often find aspects of *The Great Gatsby* attractive but ultimately the world of the novel is not admirable.”

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

C THE GRASS IS SINGING – Doris Lessing

- (i) “Lessing offers a disturbing vision of characters trapped in an unforgiving society.”

To what extent do you agree with this view? Support your answer with suitable reference to the novel, *The Grass Is Singing*.

OR

- (ii) “Readers can feel both sympathy for and irritation with Mary Turner’s character.”

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with suitable reference to the novel, *The Grass Is Singing*.

D MACBETH – William Shakespeare

- (i) “The variety of significant insights that we gain into Macbeth’s mind proves critical in shaping our understanding of his complex character.”

Discuss this view, supporting your answer with suitable reference to the play, *Macbeth*.

OR

- (ii) “Shakespeare makes effective use of disturbing imagery in the play, *Macbeth*.”

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

E ANTIGONE – Sophocles

- (i) “The play *Antigone* offers valuable insights into issues of power and authority.”

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

OR

- (ii) “The chorus serves a variety of functions in the play, *Antigone*.”

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

SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

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

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 **reader** to include viewers of films and theatre audiences.

A THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. “In any cultural context, deeply embedded values and attitudes can be difficult to change.”

Compare the extent to which the above statement is valid in relation to your understanding of the cultural context of **at least two texts** on your comparative course. (70)

OR

2. “The issue of social class is important in shaping our understanding of the cultural context of a text.”

(a) Discuss the importance of social class in shaping your understanding of the cultural context of **one** text that you have studied as part of your comparative course. (30)

(b) Compare the importance of social class in shaping your understanding of the cultural context of **two other texts** that you have studied as part of your comparative course. (40)

B THEME OR ISSUE

1. “Studying a theme or issue enables a reader to form both personal and universal reflections on that theme or issue.”

Compare both the personal and universal reflections that you formed on a common theme or issue in **two or more texts** from your comparative course. (70)

OR

2. “In many texts, a theme or issue may not be resolved to the complete satisfaction of the reader.”

- (a) Discuss the extent to which a theme or issue is resolved to your satisfaction in **one** text on your comparative course. (30)
- (b) Compare the extent to which the same theme or issue (as discussed in (a) above) is resolved to your satisfaction, in **two other texts** on your comparative course. (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 Fist

The fist clenched round my heart
loosens a little, and I gasp
brightness; but it tightens
again. When have I ever not loved
the pain of love? But this has moved

past love to mania. This has the strong
clench of the madman, this is
gripping the ledge of unreason, before
plunging howling into the abyss.

Hold hard then, heart. This way at least you live.

Derek Walcott

1. (a) Walcott expresses powerful emotions in this poem. Choose one emotion present in the poem and briefly explain how it is conveyed. Make reference to the text in support of your answer. (10)

(b) Write a brief personal response to the final line of the poem.

Hold hard then, heart. This way at least you live.

Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)

OR

2. Discuss the poet's use of language in "The Fist". Your answer should make close reference to the text. (20)

B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

1. Elizabeth Bishop

“Bishop’s carefully judged use of language aids the reader to uncover the intensity of feeling in her poetry.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Support your answer with reference to the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop on your course.

2. Gerard Manley Hopkins

“Hopkins’ innovative style displays his struggle with what he believes to be fundamental truths.”

In your opinion, is this a fair assessment of his poetry? Support your answer with suitable reference to the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins on your course.

3. Derek Mahon

“Mahon uses language and imagery to transform personal observations into universal reflections.”

Write your response to this statement with reference to the poems by Derek Mahon on your course.

4. Sylvia Plath

“Plath’s provocative imagery serves to highlight the intense emotions expressed in her poetry.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this assessment of her poetry? Support your answer with suitable reference to the poetry of Sylvia Plath on your course.

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