



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2014

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Thursday, 5th 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
- **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 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE – Jane Austen

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe one episode or incident that shows that Mrs Bennet is eager for her daughters to find husbands. (10)
- (b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes Mr Collins?
Foolish Annoying Amusing
Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. This text is entitled *Pride and Prejudice*. Suggest another title that, in your opinion, would indicate to readers what the novel is about. Explain your choice with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) ‘Readers often find that their opinion of Mr Darcy changes as they read the novel, *Pride and Prejudice*.’
Did your opinion of Mr Darcy change as you read the novel, *Pride and Prejudice*? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to the novel.

OR
 - (ii) Why do you think many modern readers enjoy the novel *Pride and Prejudice*? Support your answer with reference to the novel.

OR
 - (iii) Imagine you are Elizabeth Bennet. Write the letter she might have sent to her sister Jane, describing Mr Darcy’s first proposal of marriage to her and her response to it. Your letter should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel, *Pride and Prejudice*.

B CIRCLE OF FRIENDS – Maeve Binchy

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe one episode or incident that shows the friendship that exists between Benny and Eve. (10)

- (b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes Sean Walsh?
Greedy Dishonest Unattractive
Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

2. This text is entitled *Circle of Friends*. Suggest another title that, in your opinion, would indicate to readers what the novel is about. Explain your choice with reference to the text. (10)

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

- (i) ‘The character of Benny Hogan is easy to relate to because she leads a very ordinary life.’

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Explain your answer, supporting the points you make with reference to the novel, *Circle of Friends*.

OR

- (ii) Give one or more reasons why you would like to have lived in Ireland at the time in which *Circle of Friends* is set and one or more reasons why you would not like to have lived in Ireland at the time in which *Circle of Friends* is set. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are Eve Malone and that instead of visiting the Westwards in person, you write a letter to Simon Westward. Write a letter, in which you explain your relationship to the family, your circumstances in life, and what you want from the Westwards. Your letter should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel, *Circle of Friends*.

C EMPIRE OF THE SUN – J. G. Ballard

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe one episode or incident that shows Jim’s ability to look after himself. (10)

- (b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes Jim?
Adventurous Brave Cunning
Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

2. This text is entitled *Empire of the Sun*. Suggest another title that, in your opinion, would indicate to readers what the novel is about. Explain your choice with reference to the text. (10)

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

(i) ‘Dr Ransome is a character to be admired in *Empire of the Sun*.’

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to the novel.

OR

(ii) Life was very difficult for prisoners of war during World War II. Based on your reading of *Empire of the Sun*, what aspects of life as a prisoner of war would you have found most difficult? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to the novel.

OR

(iii) Imagine you are a newspaper reporter. Write an article about what you have witnessed at Lunghua Camp after the Japanese have left. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel, *Empire of the Sun*.

D TRANSLATIONS – Brian Friel

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe one episode or incident that shows the relationship between Lieutenant Yolland and Maire. (10)

(b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes the conclusion of the play *Translations*?
Surprising Sad Realistic
Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

2. This text is entitled *Translations*. Suggest another title that, in your opinion, would indicate to readers what the play is about. Explain your choice with reference to the text. (10)

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

(i) ‘There is no happy ending for any character in Friel’s play, *Translations*.’

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to at least one character from the play.

OR

(ii) Give one or more reasons why you would like to have lived in Ireland at the time in which *Translations* is set and one or more reasons why you would not like to have lived in Ireland at the time in which *Translations* is set. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are Lieutenant Yolland. Write a letter to your parents in England, describing some of your experiences in Donegal. Your letter should demonstrate your knowledge of the play, *Translations*.

E NEVER LET ME GO – Kazuo Ishiguro

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe one episode or incident that reveals what life was like at Hailsham. (10)
- (b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes Kathy?
Caring Tragic Innocent
Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. This text is entitled *Never Let Me Go*. Suggest another title that, in your opinion, would indicate to readers what the novel is about. Explain your choice with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) ‘Life is very difficult for Kathy, Ruth and Tommy after they leave Hailsham.’
To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement with reference to any one of these characters? Explain your answer, based on your knowledge of the novel, *Never Let Me Go*.

OR

- (ii) Based on your study of *Never Let Me Go*, why do you think many readers find the novel upsetting or disturbing? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to the novel.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are Tommy. Write two diary entries: one when you are living in Hailsham and another when you are approaching ‘completion’. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel, *Never Let Me Go*.

F HOW MANY MILES TO BABYLON? – Jennifer Johnston

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe one episode or incident that shows the relationship between Alec and his mother. (10)

(b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes Alec?

Brave Loyal Sensitive

Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

2. This text is entitled *How Many Miles to Babylon?*. Suggest another title that, in your opinion, would indicate to readers what the novel is about. Explain your choice with reference to the text. (10)

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

(i) Life was very difficult for soldiers at the front line during World War I. Based on your reading of *How Many Miles to Babylon?*, what aspects of life as a soldier, in World War I, would you have found most difficult? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to the novel.

OR

(ii) ‘Many of the characters in *How Many Miles to Babylon?* are unhappy.’

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to at least one character from the novel.

OR

(iii) Imagine you are Alec. Write a letter from the front line to your father, Frederick, in which you describe some of your wartime experiences. Your letter should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel, *How Many Miles to Babylon?*.

G SIVE – John B. Keane

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe one episode or incident that shows how much Sive dislikes Seán Dóta. (10)

(b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes Sive’s character?

Brave Obedient Tragic

Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

2. This text is entitled *Sive*. Suggest another title that, in your opinion, would indicate to readers what the play is about. Explain your choice with reference to the text. (10)

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

(i) ‘We can feel sympathy for Nanna Glavin in the play, *Sive*’

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to the text.

OR

(ii) From your study of the play *Sive*, would you like to have lived in rural Ireland at the time when the play is set? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to the play.

OR

(iii) Imagine that *Sive* managed to successfully escape from Mike and Mena’s house and didn’t marry Seán Dóta. Based on this information and your knowledge of the play, write a piece in which you describe a possible alternative ending for the play, *Sive*.

H HOME BEFORE NIGHT – Hugh Leonard

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe one episode or incident that shows the relationship between Jack and his adoptive father. (10)

(b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes Dalkey in Jack’s youth?

Exciting Dull Interesting

Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

2. This text is entitled *Home Before Night*. Suggest another title that, in your opinion, would indicate to readers what the book is about. Explain your choice with reference to the text. (10)

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

(i) ‘Jack’s narration adds to many readers’ enjoyment of the story in *Home Before Night*.’

Does Jack’s narration add to your enjoyment of the story? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) From your study of *Home Before Night*, would you like to have lived in Dalkey at the time when the story is set? Give reasons for your answer based on your knowledge of the text.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are Jack. Write two diary entries: one after you've made your first confession and another one after you start working in the civil service. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text, *Home Before Night*.

I MACBETH – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** the questions.

1. (a) Describe one episode or incident that shows Macbeth to be a violent man. (10)
- (b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes Lady Macbeth?
- Evil Ambitious Loving
- Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. This text is entitled *Macbeth*. Suggest another title that, in your opinion, would indicate to readers what the play is about. Explain your choice with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) 'In *Macbeth* the female characters are not interesting.'
- To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to at least one female character from the play.

OR

- (ii) What aspects of the play *Macbeth* do you think make it appealing to a modern audience? Explain your answer, supporting your points with reference to the text.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are one of the witches in the play, *Macbeth*. Write two diary entries: one before you meet Macbeth for the first time and another one after Macbeth's death at the end of the play. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

SECTION II THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

Candidates must answer **ONE** question from **either A – Relationships or B – Theme**.

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 RELATIONSHIPS

1. (a) Identify an important relationship in **one comparative** text you have studied. Name the text and explain why this particular relationship was important in it. (30)
- (b) Identify an important relationship in at least **one other comparative text** you have studied. Name the text(s) and compare the relationship discussed in 1.(a) above with the relationship(s) in the other text(s) you have identified. (40)

OR

2. (a) (i) Name **one** comparative text you have studied and describe one or more key moments which demonstrate the strength of one significant relationship in this text. (15)
- (ii) Name **another** comparative text you have studied and describe one or more key moments which demonstrate the strength of a significant relationship in this text. (15)
- (b) What similarities and differences did you notice between the relationships in both of the texts you discussed in 2.(a) above? (40)



B THEME

1. (a) Identify one theme common to the texts you have studied on your comparative course. Write a piece about your understanding of this theme, in **one** of the texts on your comparative course, beginning with one of the following phrases:
- The ending of the text contributed to my understanding of my chosen theme because...
 - An important character in my text contributed to my understanding of my chosen theme because... (30)

- (b) ‘Readers often find the same theme appears more relevant to their lives in some texts than in others.’

With reference to the text you referred to in 1. (a) above and **at least one other** comparative text, compare the extent to which your chosen theme was relevant to your life in these texts. (40)

OR

2. (a) (i) Choose a theme common to the comparative texts you have studied. Name **one** of these texts and identify one key moment in it that you think captures your chosen theme. Give at least one reason why you chose this moment. (15)
- (ii) Name **another** comparative text you have studied and identify one key moment in this text that you think captures the same theme. Give at least one reason why you chose this moment. (15)

- (b) ‘Reading about the same theme in different texts can draw attention to different aspects of that theme.’

In relation to the texts you discussed in 2. (a) above, compare the way(s) in which your attention was drawn to different aspects of your chosen theme in these texts. (40)

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 the following poem and the questions that follow at least twice before writing your answers.

In this poem the poet writes about returning home for a visit.

COMING HOME

My mother's hug is awkward,
As if the space between her open arms
is reserved for a child, not this body of a man.
In the kitchen she kneads the dough,
flipping it and patting before laying in again.
The flour makes her over, dusting
the hairs on her cheek, smoothing out wrinkles.

*

Dad still goes and soaks himself in the rain.
Up to his elbows in hedge, he works
on a hole that reappears every Winter,
its edges laced with wet wool –
frozen breaths snagged on the blackthorn.
When he comes in again his hair is wild,
and his pockets are filled with filings of hay.

*

All seated, my grandfather pours the wine.
His unsteady hand makes the neck of the bottle
shiver on the lip of each glass;
it is a tune he plays faster each year.

Owen Sheers

1. From your reading of this poem what impression do you form of both parents?
Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
2. How does the poet suggest the passage of time in the last stanza of the poem?
Explain your answer with reference to the last stanza of the poem. (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A THE UNDERGROUND

There we were in the vaulted tunnel running,
You in your going-away coat speeding ahead
And me, me then like a fleet god gaining
Upon you before you turned to a reed

Or some new white flower japped with crimson
As the coat flapped wild and button after button
Sprang off and fell in a trail
Between the Underground and the Albert Hall.

Honeymooning, mooning around, late for the Proms,
Our echoes die in that corridor and now
I come as Hansel came on the moonlit stones
Retracing the path back, lifting the buttons

To end up in a draughty lamplit station
After the trains have gone, the wet track
Bared and tense as I am, all attention
For your step following and damned if I look back.

Seamus Heaney

1.
 - (a) In your opinion, why did the poet choose an underground setting for this poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (b) Why do you think the poet compares himself to Hansel from the fairytale Hansel and Gretel in the above poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (c) Choose two lines or phrases from the poem that appeal to you and explain your choice. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Describe the relationship between the poet, Seamus Heaney, and his wife evident in this poem. Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece about this poem beginning with the following:
I think “The Underground” is a wonderful love poem because...
Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (iii) There are three poems by Seamus Heaney on your Leaving Certificate English course: “The Underground”, “A Constable Calls” and “A Call”. Which of these poems by Seamus Heaney do you most enjoy? Explain your answer by reference to at least one of these poems.

B POEMS FOR BREAKFAST

Another morning shaking us.
The young potted willow
is creased with thirst,
the cat is its purring roots.
Under our chipped window
the frail orange flowers grow.
Now the garden gate clicks.
Now footsteps on the path.
Letters fall like weather reports.
Our dog barks, his collar clinks,
he scrambles, and we follow,
stumble over Catullus, *MacUser*,
Ancient Greek for Beginners,
cold half-finished mugs of tea,
last week's clothes at the bed's edge.
Then the old stairs begin to creak.

And there are the poems for breakfast –
favourites left out on the long glass table.
We take turns to place them there
bent open with the pepper pot,
marmalade jar, a sugar bowl –
the weight of kitchen things.
Secret gifts to wake up with,
rhythms to last the whole day long,
surprises that net the cat, the dog,
these days that we wake together in –
our door forever opening.

Enda Wyley

1. (a) What evidence can you find in stanza two of this poem to show that Enda Wyley loves poetry? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (b) This poem is entitled “Poems for Breakfast”. Suggest a different title that you think would be a suitable one for the poem. Support your choice with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (c) Chose two lines or phrases from the poem that appeal to you and explain your choice. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
- (i) Which of the following word or words would you choose to describe the language used by the poet in this poem?
Everyday Descriptive Appealing
Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

(ii) In which of the following collections of poetry do you think this poem best belongs?

- A collection of poems about family life.
- A collection of poems about poets.
- A collection of poems about everyday life.

Explain your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

(iii) From your reading of this poem, what impression do you form of the poet's lifestyle and personality? Support your answer with reference to the poem.

C CHILD

Your clear eye is the one absolutely beautiful thing.
I want to fill it with color and ducks,
The zoo of the new

Whose names you meditate –
April snowdrop, Indian pipe,
Little

Stalk without wrinkle,
Pool in which images
Should be grand and classical

Not this troublous
Wringing of hands, this dark
Ceiling without a star.

28 January 1963

Sylvia Plath

1. (a) What feelings are expressed by the poet in the first three stanzas of this poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (b) What feelings are expressed by the poet in the last stanza of this poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (c) Choose two lines or phrases from the poem that appeal to you and explain your choice. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
- (i) You have been asked to make a short video to accompany a reading of this poem on YouTube. Describe some of the images, colours, music, sound effects, etc. that you would use as a background to the reading and explain your choices based on your knowledge of the poem.

OR

- (ii) Which of the following word or words would you choose to describe the language used by the poet in this poem?
Unusual Descriptive Appealing
Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (iii) There are three poems by Sylvia Plath on your Leaving Certificate English course: “Poppies in July”, “The Arrival of the Bee Box” and “Child”. Which of these poems by Sylvia Plath do you most enjoy? Explain your answer by reference to at least one of these poems.

D THE COLLAR

1. I struck the board, and cried, 'No more;
I will abroad!
What? shall I ever sigh and pine?
My lines and life are free; free as the road,
Loose as the wind, as large as store.
Shall I be still in suit?
Have I no harvest but a thorn
To let me blood, and not restore
What I have lost with cordial fruit?
Sure there was wine,
Before my sighs did dry it: there was corn
Before my tears did drown it.
Is the year only lost to me?
Have I no bays to crown it?
No flowers, no garlands gay? All blasted?
All wasted?
Not so, my heart: but there is fruit,
And thou hast hands.
Recover all thy sigh-blown age
On double pleasures: leave thy cold dispute
Of what is fit, and not. Forsake thy cage,
Thy rope of sands,
Which petty thoughts have made, and made to thee
Good cable, to enforce and draw,
And be thy law,
While thou didst wink and wouldst not see.
Away! take heed:
I will abroad.
Call in thy death's-head there: tie up thy fears.
He that forbears
To suit and serve his need,
Deserves his load.'
16. But as I raved and grew more fierce and wild,
At every word,
Methought I heard one calling, *Child!*
And I replied, *My Lord.*

George Herbert

1. (a) Describe the mood of the poet in the first sixteen lines of this poem. Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
- (b) What advice does the poet offer himself in lines seventeen to thirty-two of this poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)

- (c) What happens in the last four lines of the poem?
Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)

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

- (i) What impression of the poet, George Herbert, do you form from your reading of his poem, “The Collar”?

Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (ii) George Herbert died in 1633. Do you think his poem, “The Collar”, still has meaning for readers today?

Explain your response with reference to the poem.

OR

- (iii) Which of the following word or words would you choose to describe the language used by the poet in this poem?

Powerful Disturbing Prayerful

Support your answer with reference to the poem.

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