



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2015

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Thursday, 4th 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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Candidates must answer on **ONE** text (A – I).

A PRIDE AND PREJUDICE – Jane Austen

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify an aspect of Mr Darcy's character that you do or do not admire and describe one episode or incident in the novel that demonstrates this aspect of his character. (10)
- (b) Do you think that Charlotte Lucas is a suitable wife for Mr Collins? Give one reason for your answer, based on your knowledge of the novel. (10)
2. In your opinion, does Elizabeth Bennet change as the story progresses? Support your answer by reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Choose a character from *Pride and Prejudice* who you think needs advice in dealing with a difficulty or crisis. Identify the difficulty or crisis faced by the character and, demonstrating your knowledge of the text, outline the advice you would offer.

OR

- (ii) In your opinion, which **one** of the following statements best describes this novel?
 - It is a novel about snobbery.
 - It is a novel about romance.
 - It is a novel about relationships.

Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (iii) Imagine that you are Lady Catherine de Bourgh. Write a letter to one of your friends on the day after Elizabeth's wedding to Mr Darcy. In it you should discuss your feelings towards Elizabeth and your views on her marriage to Darcy. 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) Identify an aspect of Eve Malone’s character that you do or do not admire and describe one episode or incident in the novel that demonstrates this aspect of her character. (10)
- (b) Do you think that Nan Mahon is a good friend to Benny Hogan? Give one reason for your answer, based on your knowledge of the novel. (10)
2. In your opinion, does Jack Foley change as the story progresses? Support your answer by reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) In your opinion, which **one** of the following statements best describes this novel?
 - It is a novel that appeals to everybody.
 - It is a novel that appeals mainly to young women.
 - It is a novel that appeals mainly to older readers.

Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Imagine you are Sean Walsh. Write two diary entries: one on the day you start working for Benny’s father and another after your thieving is discovered. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.

OR

- (iii) Choose a character from *Circle of Friends* who you think needs advice in dealing with a difficulty or crisis. Identify the difficulty or crisis faced by the character and, demonstrating your knowledge of the text, outline the advice you would offer.

C THE GREAT GATSBY – F. Scott Fitzgerald

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify an aspect of Daisy Buchanan’s character that you do or do not admire and describe one episode or incident in the novel that demonstrates this aspect of her character. (10)
- (b) Do you think that Nick Carraway is a good friend to Jay Gatsby? Give one reason for your answer, based on your knowledge of the novel. (10)

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2. In your opinion, does Jay Gatsby change as the story progresses? Support your answer with reference to the novel. (10)

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

(i) In your opinion, which **one** of the following statements best describes this novel?

- It is a novel about greed.
- It is a novel about love.
- It is a novel about secrets.

Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

(ii) Choose a character from *The Great Gatsby* who you think needs advice in dealing with a difficulty or crisis. Identify the difficulty or crisis faced by the character and, demonstrating your knowledge of the text, outline the advice you would offer.

OR

(iii) Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter. Following the death of Jay Gatsby, write an article about his exciting life and violent death. Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel, *The Great Gatsby*.

D NEVER LET ME GO – Kazuo Ishiguro

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify an aspect of Tommy's character that you do or do not admire and describe one episode or incident in the novel that demonstrates this aspect of his character. (10)

(b) Do you think that Miss Lucy has a good relationship with the children she teaches at Hailsham School? Give one reason for your answer, based on your knowledge of the novel. (10)

2. In your opinion, does Ruth change as the story progresses? Support your answer with reference to the novel. (10)

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

(i) Choose a character from *Never Let Me Go* who you think needs advice in dealing with a difficulty or crisis. Identify the difficulty or crisis faced by the character and, demonstrating your knowledge of the text, outline the advice you would offer.

OR

(ii) In your opinion, which **one** of the following statements best describes this novel?

- It is a depressing novel.
- It is a thought-provoking novel.
- It is a shocking novel.

Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

(iii) Imagine you are Miss Emily, who was the Principal of Hailsham School. Following the school's closure, write a letter to Kathy, explaining what you tried to achieve at the school, and your concerns for her now that she is grown up. Your letter should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel, *Never Let Me Go*.

E HOW MANY MILES TO BABYLON? – Jennifer Johnston

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify an aspect of Alicia Moore's character that you do or do not admire and describe one episode or incident in the novel that demonstrates this aspect of her character. (10)

(b) Do you think that Jerry Crowe is a good friend to Alec Moore? Give one reason for your answer, based on your knowledge of the novel. (10)

2. In your opinion, does Alec change as the story progresses? Support your answer with reference to the novel. (10)

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

(i) In your opinion, which **one** of the following statements best describes this novel?

- It is a novel about duty.
- It is a novel about conflict.
- It is a novel about friendship.

Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

(ii) Choose a character from *How Many Miles To Babylon?* who you think needs advice in dealing with a difficulty or crisis. Identify the difficulty or crisis faced by the character and, demonstrating your knowledge of the text, outline the advice you would offer.

OR

(iii) Imagine you are Major Glendinning. Write a report about Alec Moore. The report should give an account of Alec's behaviour as an army officer and explain why he faces execution. Your report should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.

F HOME BEFORE NIGHT – Hugh Leonard

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify an aspect of Jack’s character that you do or do not admire and describe one episode or incident in the story that demonstrates this aspect of his character. (10)
- (b) Based on your knowledge of *Home Before Night*, do you think that Jack’s adoptive parents have a happy marriage? Give one reason for your answer, based on your knowledge of the book. (10)
2. In your opinion, does Jack change as the story progresses? Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Choose a character from *Home Before Night* who you think needs advice in dealing with a difficulty or crisis. Identify the difficulty or crisis faced by the character and, demonstrating your knowledge of the text, outline the advice you would offer.

OR
 - (ii) In your opinion, which **one** of the following statements best describes *Home Before Night*?
 - It is a book about family.
 - It is a book about Ireland in the past.
 - It is a book about growing up.Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR
 - (iii) Imagine that you are Mr Drumm. Write a report about Jack Keyes Byrne. The report should give an account of Jack’s time in the civil service and your view of Jack’s attitude towards the civil service. Your report should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

G ALL MY SONS – Arthur Miller

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify an aspect of Ann Deever’s character that you do or do not admire and describe one episode or incident in the play that demonstrates this aspect of her character. (10)
- (b) Based on your knowledge of *All My Sons*, do you think Dr Jim Bayliss and his wife Sue have a happy marriage? Give one reason for your answer, based on your knowledge of the play. (10)

2. In your opinion, does Joe Keller change as the play progresses?
Support your answer with reference to the play. (10)

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

- (i) In your opinion, which **one** of the following statements best describes this play?
- It is a play about responsibility.
 - It is a play about guilt.
 - It is a play about regret.

Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Choose a character from *All My Sons* who you think needs advice in dealing with a difficulty or crisis. Identify the difficulty or crisis faced by the character and, demonstrating your knowledge of the text, outline the advice you would offer.

OR

- (iii) Identify your favourite scene or moment in the play, *All My Sons*. Which character would you like to play in this scene or moment? Explain why you chose this character and describe the appearance and behaviour of your character in your chosen scene or moment. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

H JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK – Sean O’Casey

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify an aspect of Juno Boyle’s character that you do or do not admire and describe one episode or incident in the play that demonstrates this aspect of her character. (10)

(b) Do you think that Joxer and Captain Boyle have a genuine friendship? Give one reason for your answer, based on your knowledge of the play. (10)

2. In your opinion, does Captain Boyle change as the play progresses? Support your answer with reference to the play. (10)

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

- (i) Choose a character from *Juno and the Paycock* who you think needs advice in dealing with a difficulty or crisis. Identify the difficulty or crisis faced by the character and, demonstrating your knowledge of the text, outline the advice you would offer.

OR

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- (ii) Identify your favourite scene or moment in the play, *Juno and the Paycock*. Which character would you like to play in this scene or moment? Explain why you chose this character and describe the appearance and behaviour of your character in your chosen scene or moment. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

OR

- (iii) In your opinion, which **one** of the following statements best describes this play?
- It is a play about politics.
 - It is a play about heroism.
 - It is a play about social class.

Explain your answer with reference to the text.

I OTHELLO – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify an aspect of Othello's character that you do or do not admire and describe one episode or incident in the play that demonstrates this aspect of his character. (10)
- (b) Do you think that Brabantio is a loving father to Desdemona? Give one reason for your answer, based on your knowledge of the play. (10)
2. In your opinion, does Desdemona change as the play progresses? Support your answer with reference to the play. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) In your opinion, which **one** of the following statements best describes this play?
- It is a play about race.
 - It is a play about love.
 - It is a play about jealousy.

Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Choose a character from *Othello* who you think needs advice in dealing with a difficulty or crisis. Identify the difficulty or crisis faced by the character and, demonstrating your knowledge of the text, outline the advice you would offer.

OR

- (iii) Identify your favourite scene or moment in the play, *Othello*. Which character would you like to play in this scene or moment? Explain why you chose this character and describe the appearance and behaviour of your character in your chosen scene or moment. 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 – Hero, Heroine, Villain**.

In your answer you may not use the text you have answered on in **SECTION I – The Single Text**. All texts used in this section must be prescribed for comparative study for this year's examination.

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.

A RELATIONSHIPS

1. “Relationships in texts can contribute significantly to the overall happiness or unhappiness of the characters involved.”

- (a) (i) Identify a relationship in **one** of the three texts that you studied on your comparative course and explain whether this relationship made the characters involved happy or unhappy. (15)
- (ii) Identify a relationship in **another** text on your comparative course and explain whether this relationship made the characters involved happy or unhappy. (15)
- (b) Write a piece in which you compare what you think are the most important similarities and differences between the two relationships you identified in part (a) of this question. (40)

OR

2. “Relationships between characters can be affected by such issues as social class or conflict.”

- (a) (i) Identify a relationship, from **one** text that you have studied on your comparative course, and use one or more key moments to show that this relationship is affected by either social class or conflict. (15)
- (ii) Identify a relationship, from **another** text that you have studied on your comparative course, and use one or more key moments to show that this relationship is affected by either social class or conflict. (15)
- (b) Write a piece in which you compare what you think are the most important similarities and differences between the two relationships you identified in part (a) of this question. (40)

B HERO, HEROINE, VILLAIN

1. Read both of the following statements carefully:

- The hero or heroine or villain shocked me during the course of the text.
- The hero or heroine or villain impressed me during the course of the text.

- (a) (i) Using either one of the two statements above, write about a hero or a heroine or a villain from **one** of the three comparative texts you have studied. (15)
- (ii) Using either one of the two statements above, write about a second character (a hero or a heroine or a villain) from **another** of the comparative texts you have studied. (15)
- (b) Write a piece in which you compare what you think are the most important differences and similarities between the two characters you identified in part (a) of this question. (40)

OR

2. (a) (i) Use one or more key moments to demonstrate that a hero or a heroine or a villain from **one** text on your comparative course is either clever or cruel or brave. (15)
- (ii) Use one or more key moments to demonstrate that a character (hero, heroine or villain) from **another text** on your comparative course is either clever or cruel or brave. (15)
- (b) Write a piece in which you compare what you think are the most important differences and similarities between the two characters you identified in part (a) of this question. (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 men fishing on the River Shannon.

TODAY

They're fishing the river in Limerick today,
bright green-waded men against the sway
and the push and pull of the water's weight,
the tide's swirl and the foam's frothy spray.
There's the swish of the line's cast, the swoop –
mad delight in the line's expectant alight,
and the silent cry as the sound gets caught
in the wind's whirl and the seagull's flight.
Clouds bustle, bunch and swiftly separate,
white tissues on a blue expanse of sky.
They flutter and turn, commanded by
the wind's wild motion and the river's roll.
And the green-clothed men continue to bait
until the reel and a silver splash sends them home.

Vivienne McKechnie

1. Identify two lines or phrases where the poet uses images or sounds that you find appealing and explain your choice. (10)
2. Write a paragraph, describing in your own words, the impression of the natural world that you form from reading this poem. (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A

THE LOCKET

Sing a last song
for the lady who has gone,
fertile source of guilt and pain.
*The worst birth in the annals of
Brooklyn,*
that was my cue to come on,
my first claim to fame.

Naturally, she longed for a girl,
and all my infant curls of brown
couldn't excuse my double blunder
coming out, both the wrong sex,
and the wrong way around.
Not readily forgiven,

So you never nursed me
and when all my father's songs
couldn't sweeten the lack of money,
'when poverty comes through the door
love flies up the chimney',
your favourite saying.

Then you gave me away,
might never have known me,
if I had not cycled down
to court you like a young man,
teasingly untying your apron,
drinking by the fire, yarning

Of your wild, young days
which didn't last long, for you,
lovely Molly, the belle of your small
town,
landed up mournful and chill
as the constant rain that lashes it
wound into your cocoon of pain.

Standing in that same hallway,
'Don't come again,' you say, roughly,
'I start to get fond of you, John,
and then you are up and gone';
the harsh logic of a forlorn woman
resigned to being alone.

And still, mysterious blessing,
I never knew, until you were gone,
that, always around your neck
you wore an oval locket
with an old picture in it,
of a child in Brooklyn.

John Montague

1. (a) Based on your reading of stanzas one to three of this poem, what difficulties did the poet face as a child? (10)
- (b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes the relationship between the poet and his mother?
Difficult Loving Complicated
Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
- (c) Do you find the ending of this poem happy or sad, or both?
Explain your response with reference to the poem. (10)

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

- (i) Imagine you are the son in this poem. Having just visited your mother, write a letter to her in which you discuss your childhood, express your feelings towards her and your hopes for the future. Your response should demonstrate your understanding of the poem.

OR

- (ii) Use one or more of the following words to write a piece about the poet's use of language in this poem.

Descriptive Challenging Dramatic

Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (iii) Do your feelings towards the poet's mother change over the course of this poem? Explain your answer with reference to the poem.

B REVELATION

I remember once being shown the black bull
when a child at the farm for eggs and milk.
They called him Bob – as though perhaps
you could reduce a monster
with the charm of a friendly name.
At the threshold of his outhouse, someone
held my hand and let me peer inside.
At first, only black
and the hot reek of him. Then he was immense,
his edges merging with the darkness, just
a big bulk and a roar to be really scared of,
a trampling, and a clanking tense with the chain's jerk.
His eyes swivelled in the great wedge of his tossed head.
He roared his rage. His nostrils gaped like wounds.

And in the yard outside,
oblivious hens picked their way about.
The faint and rather festive tinkling
behind the mellow stone and hasp was all they knew
of the Black Mass, straining at his chains.
I had always half-known he existed –
this antidote and Anti-Christ his anarchy
threatened the eggs, well rounded, self-contained –
and the placidity of milk

I ran, my pigtails thumping on my back in fear
past the big boys in the farm lane
who pulled the wings from butterflies and
blew up frogs with straws.
Past thorned hedge and harried nest,
scared of the eggs shattering –
only my small and shaking hand on the jug's rim
in case the milk should spill.

Liz Lochhead

1. (a) What impression of the bull do you get from reading stanza one of this poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
- (b) Based on your reading of stanza three, what effect does the bull have on the girl in the poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
- (c) Why do you think the poem is called “Revelation”? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (10)

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

(i) Using one or more of the following statements, describe your personal response to this poem.

- I find this poem shocking.
- I find this poem powerful.
- I find this poem thought-provoking.

Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

(ii) Use one or more of the following words to write a piece about the poet's use of language in this poem.

Descriptive Challenging Dramatic

Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

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

- A collection of poems about childhood.
- A collection of poems about animals.
- A collection of poems about monsters.

Explain your answer with reference to the poem.

C GHOST ESTATE

women inherit
the ghost estate
their unborn children
play invisible games
of hide & seek
in the scaffold frames
*if you lived here
you'd be home by now*

the heart is open plan
wired for alarm
but we never thought
we'd end like this
the whole country
a builder's tip
*if you lived here
you'd be home by now*

they fear winter
& the missing lights
on the unmade road
& who they will get
for neighbours
if anyone comes anymore
*if you lived here
you'd be home by now*

it's all over now
but to fill the holes
nowhere to go
& out on the edge
where the boys drive
too fast for the road
that old sign says
first phase sold out

the saurian cranes
& concrete mixers
the rain greying into
the hard-core
& the wind
in the empty windows
*if you lived here
you'd be home by now*

William Wall

1. (a) From your reading of stanzas two and three of this poem, describe what the ghost estate looks like. Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes what life is like in the ghost estate?
Difficult Dangerous Unhappy
Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (c) Explain what you think the poet means in the final line of the poem:
“first phase sold out”. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) In your opinion, does this poem present an accurate and realistic impression of an aspect of modern Irish life? Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (ii) Imagine that you have been asked to make a short YouTube video to accompany a reading of this poem. 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

- (iii) Use one or more of the following words to write a piece about the poet's use of language in this poem.

Descriptive Clever Dramatic

Support your answer with reference to the poem.

D THE BEND IN THE ROAD

This is the place where the child
Felt sick in the car and they pulled over
And waited in the shadow of a house.
A tall tree like a cat's tail waited too.
They opened the windows and breathed
Easily, while nothing moved. Then he was better.

Over twelve years it has become the place
Where you were sick one day on the way to the lake.
You are taller now than us.
The tree is taller, the house is quite covered in
With green creeper, and the bend
In the road is as silent as ever it was on that day.

Piled high, wrapped lightly, like the one cumulus cloud
In a perfect sky, softly packed like the air,
Is all that went on in those years, the absences,
The faces never long absent from thought,
The bodies alive then and the airy space they took up
When we saw them wrapped and sealed by sickness
Guessing the piled weight of sleep
We knew they could not carry for long;
This is the place of their presence: in the tree, in the air.

Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin

1. (a) How does the poet suggest the passing of time in the second stanza of this poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (b) In your opinion, which one of the following words best describes the mood or atmosphere of this poem?
Affectionate Mysterious Nostalgic
Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
 - (c) Explain, in your own words, what you think the poet means in the last line of this poem:
"This is the place of their presence: in the tree, in the air." (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Imagine that you have been asked to make a short YouTube video to accompany a reading of this poem. 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) Use one or more of the following words to write a piece about the poet's use of language in this poem.

Descriptive Evocative Dramatic

Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (iii) Which one of the following statements would you choose to describe this poem?

- It is a poem about memory.
- It is a poem about nature.
- It is a poem about change.

Explain your choice by reference to the poem.

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