



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2016

## English - Higher Level - Paper 2

**Total Marks: 200**

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> 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 (*King Lear*) or in SECTION II, The Comparative Study (*King Lear, Othello*).

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

**A WUTHERING HEIGHTS – Emily Brontë**

- (i) “Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff share a variety of character traits that contribute to the dramatic and tragic aspects of the story.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with reference to the novel, *Wuthering Heights*.

**OR**

- (ii) “Brontë’s effective use of a range of contrasts helps to create a darkly fascinating world in the course of her novel, *Wuthering Heights*.”

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

**B THE GREAT GATSBY – F. Scott Fitzgerald**

- (i) “Daisy Buchanan and Jay Gatsby possess a variety of character traits that contribute to the dramatic and tragic aspects of the story.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with reference to the novel, *The Great Gatsby*.

**OR**

- (ii) “Fitzgerald’s effective use of a range of contrasts helps to create a clearly unequal world in the course of his novel, *The Great Gatsby*.”

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

**C TRANSLATIONS – Brian Friel**

- (i) “The central characters in Friel’s play, *Translations*, are tragic but not heroic.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with reference to at least two of the play’s central characters.

**OR**

- (ii) “Friel explores the theme of identity in a variety of ways throughout the play, *Translations*.”

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

**D DEATH AND NIGHTINGALES – Eugene McCabe**

- (i) “Billy and Beth Winters share a variety of character traits that contribute to the dramatic and tragic aspects of the story.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with reference to the novel, *Death and Nightingales*.

**OR**

- (ii) “McCabe makes effective use of a range of conflicts to create a deeply disturbing world in the course of his novel, *Death and Nightingales*.”

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

**E KING LEAR – William Shakespeare**

- (i) “Throughout the course of the play, both Lear and Gloucester are tragic characters, but Lear develops into the more heroic figure.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with reference to the play, *King Lear*.

**OR**

- (ii) “Shakespeare explores both the destructive and the redemptive power of love throughout the play, *King Lear*.”

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

## SECTION II THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

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

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. Candidates may refer to only one film in the course of their answers.

Please note:

- Questions in this section 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.
- When used, the word **reader** includes viewers of films and theatre audiences.
- When used, the term **technique** is taken to include techniques employed by all writers and directors of films.
- When used, the word **author** is taken to include all writers and directors of films.

### A THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. “Understanding who holds power and who is powerless helps to reveal the cultural context in texts.”

Compare how the distribution of power within each of **three** texts on your comparative course helps to reveal the cultural contexts in these texts.

Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (70)

**OR**

2. “Central characters can be successful or unsuccessful in challenging aspects of the cultural context in texts.”

(a) Discuss the extent to which at least one central character is successful or unsuccessful in challenging at least one aspect of the cultural context in **one** text on your comparative course. Support your answer with reference to the text. (30)

(b) Compare the extent to which at least one central character, from each of **two other** comparative texts, is either successful or unsuccessful in challenging at least one aspect of the cultural context in these texts. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts.

You may refer to the same aspect or different aspects of the cultural contexts in your answers. (40)

## **B LITERARY GENRE**

1. “Authors can use various techniques to make settings real and engaging.”

Compare how the authors of **three** of the texts on your comparative course make the settings in these texts real and engaging. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (70)

**OR**

2. “Different techniques may be used to heighten the impact of moments of crisis in texts.”

(a) Discuss the technique(s) used to heighten the impact of at least one moment of crisis in **one** of the texts you have studied for your comparative course. Support your answer with reference to the text. (30)

(b) With reference to **two other** comparative texts, compare the technique(s) used to heighten the impact of at least one moment of crisis in each of these texts. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (40)

Candidates must answer **A** – Unseen Poem **and B** – Prescribed Poetry.

**A UNSEEN POEM (20 marks)**

Read the following poem by Czesław Miłosz and answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2 which follow.

**And Yet the Books**

And yet the books will be there on the shelves, separate beings,  
That appeared once, still wet  
As shining chestnuts under a tree in autumn,  
And, touched, coddled, began to live  
In spite of fires on the horizon, castles blown up,  
Tribes on the march, planets in motion.  
“We are,” they said, even as their pages  
Were being torn out, or a buzzing flame  
Licked away their letters. So much more durable  
Than we are, whose frail warmth  
Cools down with memory, disperses, perishes.  
I imagine the earth when I am no more:  
Nothing happens, no loss, it’s still a strange pageant,  
Women’s dresses, dewy lilacs, a song in the valley.  
Yet the books will be there on the shelves, well born,  
Derived from people, but also from radiance, heights.

*Czesław Miłosz*

1. (a) Outline the ideas expressed by the poet in this poem.  
Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
- (b) Select two images from the poem that you think best convey the poet’s ideas.  
Explain your choice. (10)

**OR**

2. Discuss the language used by the poet throughout this poem. Refer closely to the text in your answer. (20)

**B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)**

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

**1. Emily Dickinson**

“Dickinson’s use of an innovative style to explore intense experiences can both intrigue and confuse.”

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with reference to the poetry of Emily Dickinson on your course.

**2. T. S. Eliot**

“Eliot frequently creates memorable characters and dramatic settings to convey both his search for meaning in life and his sense of disillusionment.”

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with reference to the poetry of T. S. Eliot on your course.

**3. Elizabeth Bishop**

“Bishop uses highly detailed observation, of people, places and events, to explore unique personal experiences in her poetry.”

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with reference to the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop on your course.

**4. Paul Durcan**

“Durcan takes a narrative approach to explore a variety of issues in poems of great emotional honesty.”

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with reference to the poetry of Paul Durcan on your course.

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