

411/01

ENGLISH LITERATURE

ELit1: Shakespeare

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 11 January 2006

(1 Hour)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question only.

Answer **part (a) and part (b)** of your chosen question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Part (a) of each question, which focuses on an extract, is worth **one third** of the total marks for this paper.

Part (b) of each question, which refers to the whole text and contexts, is worth **two thirds**.

You are advised to divide your time accordingly.

In **part (a)** of each question you will be assessed on your ability to:

- communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression;
- show detailed understanding of the ways in which writers' choices of form, structure and language shape meanings.

In **part (b)** of each question you will be assessed on your ability to:

- articulate independent opinion and judgements, informed by different interpretations of literary texts by other readers;
- show understanding of the contexts in which literary texts are written and understood.

Remember that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Answer **one** question only.

Shakespeare: Henry V

Either,

1. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's presentation of the traitors and King Henry.

<i>Scroop</i>	Our purposes God justly hath discover'd, And I repent my fault more than my death; Which I beseech your Highness to forgive, Although my body pay the price of it.	
<i>Cambridge</i>	For me, the gold of France did not seduce, Although I did admit it as a motive The sooner to effect what I intended; But God be thanked for prevention, Which I in sufferance heartily will rejoice, Beseeching God and you to pardon me.	5 10
<i>Grey</i>	Never did faithful subject more rejoice At the discovery of most dangerous treason Than I do at this hour joy o'er myself, Prevented from a damned enterprise.	
<i>King</i>	My fault, but not my body, pardon, sovereign. God quit you in his mercy! Hear your sentence. You have conspir'd against our royal person, Join'd with an enemy proclaim'd, and from his coffers Receiv'd the golden earnest of our death; Wherein you would have sold your king to slaughter, His princes and his peers to servitude, His subjects to oppression and contempt, And his whole kingdom into desolation. Touching our person seek we no revenge; But we our kingdom's safety must so tender, Whose ruin you have sought, that to her laws We do deliver you. Get you therefore hence, Poor miserable wretches, to your death; The taste whereof God of his mercy give You patience to endure, and true repentance Of all your dear offences. Bear them hence.	15 20 25 30

(Act 2, Scene 2)

- (b) How far do you agree with the view that "Henry V is a play preoccupied with the issue of loyalty"?

Shakespeare: Henry V

Or,

2. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's presentation of Burgundy.

<i>Burgundy</i>	My duty to you both, on equal love, Great Kings of France and England! That I have labour'd With all my wits, my pains, and strong endeavours, To bring your most imperial Majesties Unto this bar and royal interview, 5 Your mightiness on both parts best can witness. Since then my office hath so far prevail'd That face to face and royal eye to eye, You have congreeted, let it not disgrace me If I demand, before this royal view, 10 What rub or what impediment there is Why that the naked, poor, and mangled Peace, Dear nurse of arts, plenties, and joyful births, Should not in this best garden of the world, Our fertile France, put up her lovely visage? 15 Alas, she hath from France too long been chas'd! And all her husbandry doth lie on heaps, Corrupting in it own fertility. Her vine, the merry cheerer of the heart, Unpruned dies; her hedges even-pleach'd, 20 Like prisoners wildly overgrown with hair, Put forth disorder'd twigs; her fallow leas The darnel, hemlock, and rank fumitory, Doth root upon, while that the coulter rusts That should deracinate such savagery; 25 The even mead, that erst brought sweetly forth The freckled cowslip, burnet, and green clover, Wanting the scythe, all uncorrected, rank, Conceives by idleness, and nothing teems But hateful docks, rough thistles, kecksies, burs, 30 Losing both beauty and utility. And as our vineyards, fallows, meads and hedges, Defective in their natures, grow to wildness; Even so our houses and ourselves and children Have lost, or do not learn for want of time, 35 The sciences that should become our country;
-----------------	--

(Act 5, Scene 2)

- (b) "The play offers less to interest the audience after Agincourt." How far do you agree with this view of *Henry V*?

Shakespeare: King Lear

Or,

3. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's portrayal of King Lear.

<i>Lear</i>	Let it be so! Thy truth, then, be thy dower! For, by the sacred radiance of the sun, The mysteries of Hecat and the night; By all the operation of the orbs From whom we do exist and cease to be; 5 Here I disclaim all my paternal care, Propinquity and property of blood, And as a stranger to my heart and me Hold thee from this for ever. The barbarous Scythian, Or he that makes his generation messes 10 To gorge his appetite, shall to my bosom Be as well neighbour'd, pitied, and reliev'd, As thou my sometime daughter.	
<i>Kent</i>		Good my liege –
<i>Lear</i>	Peace, Kent! Come not between the dragon and his wrath. 15 I lov'd her most, and thought to set my rest On her kind nursery. [To Cordelia] Hence, and avoid my sight! – So be my grave my peace as here I give Her father's heart from her! Call France – Who stirs? 20 Call Burgundy. Cornwall and Albany, With my two daughters' dowers digest this third. Let pride, which she calls plainness, marry her. I do invest you jointly with my power, Pre-eminence, and all the large effects 25 That troop with what majesty. Ourselves, by monthly course, With reservation of an hundred knights, By you to be sustain'd, shall our abode Make with you by due turn. Only we shall retain The name, and all th'addition to a king: 30 The sway, revenue, execution of the rest, Beloved sons, be yours; which to confirm, This coronet part between you.	

(Act 1, Scene 1)

- (b) How far do you agree with the view that King Lear is “an arrogant and foolish old man, lacking any decent human qualities”?

Shakespeare: King Lear

Or,

4. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's presentation of Gloucester and Edgar.

<i>Gloucester</i>	Sirrah, naked fellow!	
<i>Edgar</i>	Poor Tom's a-cold. [<i>Aside</i>] I cannot daub it further.	
<i>Gloucester</i>	Come hither, fellow.	
<i>Edgar</i>	[<i>Aside</i>] And yet I must. – Bless thy sweet eyes, they bleed.	
<i>Gloucester</i>	Know'st thou the way to Dover?	5
<i>Edgar</i>	Both stile and gate, horse-way and footpath. Poor Tom hath been scar'd out of his good wits. Bless thee, good man's son, from the foul fiend! Five fiends have been in poor Tom at once: of lust, as Obidicut; Hobbididence, prince of dumbness; Mahu, of stealing; Modo, of murder; Flibertigibbet, of mopping and mowing, who since possesses chambermaids and waiting-women. So, bless thee, master!	10
<i>Gloucester</i>	Here, take this purse, thou whom the heavens' plagues Have humbled to all strokes. That I am wretched Makes thee the happier. Heavens, deal so still!	15
	Let the superfluous and lust-dieted man That slaves your ordinance, that will not see Because he does not feel, feel your power quickly; So distribution should undo excess, And each man have enough. Dost thou know Dover?	20
<i>Edgar</i>	Ay, master.	
<i>Gloucester</i>	There is a cliff whose high and bending head Looks fearfully in the confined deep: Bring me but to the very brim of it And I'll repair the misery thou dost bear With something rich about me. From that place I shall no leading need.	25
<i>Edgar</i>	Give me thy arm; Poor Tom shall lead thee.	

(Act 4, Scene 1)

- (b) How far do you agree with the view that the Gloucester sub-plot is an unnecessary distraction from the main action of the play?

Shakespeare: The Merry Wives of Windsor

Or,

5. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's portrayal of Falstaff.

<i>Falstaff</i>	Which of you know Ford of this town?	
<i>Pistol</i>	I ken the wight; he is of substance good.	
<i>Falstaff</i>	My honest lads, I will tell you what I am about.	
<i>Pistol</i>	Two yards, and more.	
<i>Falstaff</i>	No quips now, Pistol. Indeed, I am in the waist two yards about; but I am now about no waste; I am about thrift. Briefly, I do mean to make love to Ford's wife; I spy entertainment in her; she discourses, she carves, she gives the leer of invitation; I can construe the action of her familiar style; and the hardest voice of her behaviour, to be English'd rightly, is 'I am Sir John Falstaff's'.	5 10
<i>Pistol</i>	He hath studied her well, and translated her will out of honesty into English.	
<i>Nym</i>	The anchor is deep; will that humour pass?	
<i>Falstaff</i>	Now, the report goes she has all the rule of her husband's purse; he hath a legion of angels.	15
<i>Pistol</i>	As many devils entertain; and 'To her, boy' say I.	
<i>Nym</i>	The humour rises; it is good; humour me the angels.	
<i>Falstaff</i>	I have writ me here a letter to her; and here another to Page's wife, who even now gave me good eyes too, examin'd my parts with most judicious oeillades; sometimes the beam of her view gilded my foot, sometimes my portly belly.	20
<i>Pistol</i>	Then did the sun on dunghill shine.	
<i>Nym</i>	I thank thee for that humour.	25
<i>Falstaff</i>	O, she did so course o'er my exteriors with such a greedy intention that the appetite of her eye did seem to scorch me up like a burning-glass! Here's another letter to her. She bears the purse too; she is a region in Guiana, all gold and bounty. I will be cheaters to them both, and they shall be exchequers to me; they shall be my East and West Indies, and I will trade to them both. Go, bear thou this letter to Mistress Page; and thou this to Mistress Ford. We will thrive, lads, we will thrive.	30

(Act 1, Scene 3)

- (b) "There is little to interest the audience beyond the character and schemes of Sir John." How far do you agree with this view of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*?

Shakespeare: The Merry Wives of Windsor

Or,

6. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's portrayal of Mrs Ford and Mrs Page.

<i>Mrs Ford</i>	How might we disguise him?	
<i>Mrs Page</i>	Alas the day, I know not! There is no woman's gown big enough for him; otherwise he might put on a hat, a muffler, and a kerchief, and so escape.	
<i>Falstaff</i>	Good hearts, devise something; any extremity rather than a mischief.	5
<i>Mrs Ford</i>	My maid's aunt, the fat woman of Brainford, has a gown above.	
<i>Mrs Page</i>	On my word, it will serve him; she's as big as he is; and there's her thrumm'd hat, and her muffler too. Run up, Sir John.	
<i>Mrs Ford</i>	Go, go, sweet Sir John. Mistress Page and I will look some linen for your head.	10
<i>Mrs Page</i>	Quick, quick; we'll come dress you straight. Put on the gown the while.	
<i>Mrs Ford</i>	I would my husband would meet him in this shape; he cannot abide the old woman of Brainford; he swears she's a witch, forbade her my house, and hath threat'ned to beat her.	15
<i>Mrs Page</i>	Heaven guide him to thy husband's cudgel; and the devil guide his cudgel afterwards!	
<i>Mrs Ford</i>	But is my husband coming?	
<i>Mrs Page</i>	Ay, in good sadness is he; and talks of the basket too, howsoever he hath had intelligence.	20
<i>Mrs Ford</i>	We'll try that; for I'll appoint my men to carry the basket again, to meet him at the door with it as they did last time.	
<i>Mrs Page</i>	Nay, but he'll be here presently; let's go dress him like the witch of Brainford.	25
<i>Mrs Ford</i>	I'll first direct my men what they shall do with the basket. Go up; I'll bring linen for him straight.	
<i>Mrs Page</i>	Hang him, dishonest varlet! we cannot misuse him enough. We'll leave a proof, by that which we will do, Wives may be merry and yet honest too.	30
	We do not act that often jest and laugh; 'Tis old but true: Still swine eats all the draff.	

(Act 4, Scene 2)

- (b) How far do you agree with the view that in this play "it is the female characters who most impress the audience"?