



**GCE A level**

414/01

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**  
**ELit4: Poetry pre-1900**

P.M. TUESDAY, 3 June 2008

1¼ hours

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need

- a copy of the text you have studied;
- an 8 page answer book.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **one** question only.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

All questions carry equal marks.

In this unit 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;
- articulate independent opinions and judgements, informed by different interpretations of literary texts by other readers.

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

*Answer one question only.*

***Chaucer: The Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale***

**Either,**

1. 'The message of *The Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale* is lost in digression.'  
'Chaucer's use of digressions in *The Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale* is vital to an understanding of his message.'  
Which of these views do you favour? In your response, you should refer in detail to Chaucer's techniques.

**Or,**

2. 'Chaucer has clearly succeeded in his purpose to tell a tale which makes "our hertes glade".' How far do you agree with this assessment? Your discussion should include close analysis of Chaucer's techniques.

***Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson***

**Either ,**

3. 'Dickinson's poetry is dominated by a negative view of life.' How fair is this comment on Dickinson's work? Through close analysis of Dickinson's techniques in at least **three** poems, explore how far you agree with this statement.

**Or,**

4. To what extent do you agree that 'the main theme of Dickinson's poetry is isolation'? Make close reference to Dickinson's use of form, structure and language in at least **three** of the selected poems.

***Graham (ed): A Selection of Metaphysical Poets***  
*(Donne, Herbert and Vaughan)*

**Either ,**

5. 'Despite his insistence on the physical, Donne is a spiritual poet.' Do you agree? Support your argument with close reference to Donne's use of language, form and structure in at least **three** of the set poems.

**Or,**

6. How far would you support the view that 'Metaphysical poets unite the intellect and the imagination'? In the light of this view, discuss the work of **more than one** poet from the selection, making close reference to at least **three** poems.

***Keats: Selected Poems***

**Either ,**

7. 'Keats's poetry is obsessed with women.' How fair is this assessment of Keats's poetry? Make close reference to Keats's techniques in at least **two** poems in your response.

**Or,**

8. To what extent do you agree that 'Keats's poetry is preoccupied with the theme of time'? Make close reference to Keats's use of form, structure and language in at least **two** of the set poems in your response.

***Milton: Paradise Lost, Books 1 and 2***

**Either ,**

9. To what extent do you agree that 'above all *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2* is an exploration of freedom'? In your response you should include detailed reference to Milton's techniques.

**Or,**

10. 'Milton's poem is most engaging when the fallen angels speak.' By close analysis of *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2*, discuss how far you agree with this comment.

***Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems***

**Either ,**

11. 'Rossetti's poetry is spiritually uplifting and triumphant.' How far would you agree with this view? In your answer you should refer to at least **three** of the selected poems.

**Or,**

12. 'The serious elements of *Goblin Market* undermine its appeal.' How far do you agree? Support your argument with close reference to the text.