

**ADVANCED GCE UNIT**

**2713/RB**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**

Comparative and Contextual Study (Closed Text)

**READING BOOKLET**

**WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2007**

Afternoon

Time: 2 hours 15 minutes

**To be opened on Wednesday 31 January 2007**



- **The first fifteen minutes are for reading the passages in this reading booklet.**
- During this time you may make any annotations you choose on the passages themselves.
- The questions for this examination are given in a separate question paper.
- **You must not open the question paper, or write anything in your answer booklet, until instructed to do so.**
- The Invigilator will tell you when the fifteen minutes begin and end.
- You will then be allowed to open the question paper.
- You will have **two hours** to work on the tasks.

This document consists of **11** printed pages and **1** blank page.

## 1 Satire

The passage comes from *A Modest Proposal* (1729) by Jonathan Swift.

In this passage 'the Proposer', the first person narrator, begins to suggest a remedy for the famine from which the Irish poor are suffering.

The number of souls in this kingdom<sup>1</sup> being usually reckoned one million and a half, of these I calculate there may be about 200,000 couples whose wives are breeders; from which number I subtract 30,000 couples who are able to maintain their own children (although I apprehend there cannot be so many, under the present distresses of the kingdom); but this being granted, there will remain 170,000 breeders. I again subtract 50,000 for those women who miscarry, or whose children die by accident or disease within the year. There only remain 120,000 children of poor parents annually born. The question therefore is, how this number shall be reared and provided for, which, as I have already said, under the present situation of affairs, is utterly impossible by all the methods hitherto proposed. For we can neither employ them in handicraft or agriculture; we neither build houses (I mean in the country) nor cultivate land; they can very seldom pick up a livelihood by stealing, till they arrive at six years old, except where they are of towardly parts<sup>2</sup>; although I confess they learn the rudiments much earlier; during which time, they can however be properly looked upon only as probationers; as I have been informed by a principal gentleman in the county of Cavan, who protested to me that he never knew above one or two instances under the age of six, even in a part of the kingdom so renowned for the quickest proficiency in that art. 5 10 15

I am assured by our merchants, that a boy or a girl before twelve years old is no saleable commodity; and even when they come to this age they will not yield above 3*l.* or 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*<sup>3</sup> at most on the exchange; which cannot turn to account either to the parents or kingdom, the charge of nutriment and rags having been at least four times that value. 20

I shall now therefore humbly propose my own thoughts, which I hope will not be liable to the least objection. 25

I have been assured by a very knowing American of my acquaintance in London, that a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee or a ragout.

I do therefore humbly offer it to public consideration that of the 120,000 children already computed, 20,000 may be reserved for breed, whereof only one-fourth part to be males; which is more than we allow to sheep, black cattle or swine; and my reason is, that these children are seldom the fruits of marriage, a circumstance not much regarded by our savages, therefore one male will be sufficient to serve four females. That the remaining 100,000 may, at a year old, be offered in sale to the persons of quality and fortune through the kingdom; always advising the mother to let them suck plentifully in the last month, so as to render them plump and fat for a good table. A child will make two dishes at an entertainment for friends; and when the family dines alone, the fore or hind quarter will make a reasonable dish, and seasoned with a little pepper or salt will be very good boiled on the fourth day, especially in winter. 30 35 40

I have reckoned upon a medium that a child just born will weigh 12 pounds, and in a solar year, if tolerably nursed, will increase to 28 pounds.

I grant this food will be somewhat dear, and therefore very proper for landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have the best title to the children. 45

<sup>1</sup> *this kingdom*: i.e. Ireland

<sup>2</sup> *towardly parts*: advanced in growth for their age

<sup>3</sup> *l. s. d.*: pounds, shillings, pence

## 2 The Gothic Tradition

The passage comes from *Vathek* (1786) by William Beckford.

In this passage Princess Nouronihar, daughter of the Emir Fakreddin, is enticed by a mysterious light to venture into an unknown region.

The globe of fire now appeared stationary in the glen, and burned in majestic stillness. Nouronihar, pressing her hands upon her bosom, hesitated, for some moments, to advance. The solitude of her situation was new, the silence of the night awful, and every object inspired sensations which, till then, she never had felt. The affright of Gulchenrouz recurred to her mind, and she a thousand times turned to go back; but this luminous appearance was always before her. Urged on by an irresistible impulse, she continued to approach it, in defiance of every obstacle that opposed her progress. 5

At length she arrived at the opening of the glen; but, instead of coming up to the light, she found herself surrounded by darkness; excepting that, at a considerable distance, a faint spark glimmered by fits. She stopped a second time: the sound of waterfalls mingling their murmurs, the hollow rustlings among the palm-branches and the funeral screams of the birds from their rifted trunks, all conspired to fill her soul with terror. She imagined, every moment, that she trod on some venomous reptile. All the stories of malignant dives<sup>1</sup> and dismal Ghoules thronged into her memory; but her curiosity was, notwithstanding, more predominant than her fears. She therefore firmly entered a winding track that led towards the spark; but, being a stranger to the path, she had not gone far, till she began to repent of her rashness. 'Alas!' said she, 'that I were but in those secure and illuminated apartments, where my evenings glided on with Gulchenrouz! Dear child! how would thy heart flutter with terror, wert thou wandering in these wild solitudes, like me!' Thus speaking, she advanced, and coming up to steps hewn in the rock, ascended them undismayed. The light which was now gradually enlarging, appeared above her on the summit of the mountain, and as if proceeding from a cavern. At length, she distinguished a plaintive and melodious union of voices, that resembled the dirges which are sung over tombs. A sound like that which arises from the filling of baths struck her ear at the same time. She continued ascending, and discovered large wax torches in full blaze, planted here and there in the fissures of the rock. This appearance filled her with fear, whilst the subtle and potent odour which the torches exhaled caused her to sink, almost lifeless, at the entrance of the grot<sup>2</sup>. 10 15 20 25 30

Casting her eyes within in this kind of trance, she beheld a large cistern of gold, filled with a water, the vapour of which distilled on her face a dew of the essence of roses. A soft symphony resounded through the grot. On the sides of the cistern she noticed appendages of royalty, diadems and feathers of the heron, all sparkling with carbuncles<sup>3</sup>. Whilst her attention was fixed on this display of magnificence, the music ceased, and a voice instantly demanded, 'For what monarch are these torches kindled, this bath prepared, and these habiliments<sup>4</sup> which belong not only to the sovereigns of the earth, but even to the talismanic powers?' To which a second voice answered, 'They are for the charming daughter of the emir Fakreddin.' 35

<sup>1</sup> *dives*: souls taken to hell

<sup>2</sup> *grot*: grotto

<sup>3</sup> *carbuncles*: gemstones

<sup>4</sup> *habiliments*: clothes

### 3 Writing of the Romantic Era

The poem and its introduction were written by Sir Walter Scott and were published in 1815.

#### *Helvellyn*

*In the spring of 1805, a young gentleman of talents, and of a most amiable disposition, perished by losing his way on the mountain Helvellyn. His remains were not discovered till three months afterwards, when they were found guarded by a faithful terrier-bitch, his constant attendant during frequent solitary rambles through the wilds of Cumberland and Westmorland.*

I climb'd the dark brow of the mighty Helvellyn,  
 Lakes and mountains beneath me gleam'd misty and wide;  
 All was still, save by fits, when the eagle was yelling,  
 And starting around me the echoes replied.  
 On the right, Striden-edge round the Red-tarn was bending,                     5  
 And Catchedicam its left verge was defending,  
 One huge nameless rock in the front was ascending,  
 When I mark'd the sad spot where the wanderer had died.

Dark green was that spot 'mid the brown mountain heather,  
 Where the Pilgrim of Nature lay stretch'd in decay,                     10  
 Like the corpse of an outcast abandon'd to weather,  
 Till the mountain winds wasted the tenantless clay.  
 Nor yet quite deserted, though lonely extended,  
 For, faithful in death, his mute favourite attended,  
 The much-loved remains of her master defended,                     15  
 And chased the hill-fox and the raven away.

How long didst thou think that his silence was slumber?  
 When the wind waved his garment, how oft didst thou start?  
 How many long days and long weeks didst thou number,  
 Ere he faded before thee, the friend of thy heart?                     20  
 And, oh, was it meet, that – no requiem read o'er him –  
 No mother to weep, and no friend to deplore him,  
 And thou, little guardian, alone stretch'd before him –  
 Unhonour'd the Pilgrim from life should depart?

When a Prince to the fate of the Peasant has yielded,                     25  
 The tapestry waves dark round the dim-lighted hall;  
 With scutcheons<sup>1</sup> of silver the coffin is shielded,  
 And pages stand mute by the canopied pall<sup>2</sup>:  
 Through the courts, at deep midnight, the torches are gleaming;  
 In the proudly-arch'd chapel the banners are beaming,                     30  
 Far adown the long aisle sacred music is streaming,  
 Lamenting a Chief of the people should fall.

But meeter<sup>3</sup> for thee, gentle lover of nature,  
 To lay down thy head like the meek mountain lamb,  
 When, wilder'd, he drops from some cliff huge in stature, 35  
 And draws his last sob by the side of his dam<sup>4</sup>.  
 And more stately thy couch by this desert lake lying,  
 Thy obsequies<sup>5</sup> sung by the gray plover flying,  
 With one faithful friend but to witness thy dying,  
 In the arms of Helvellyn and Catchedicam. 40

<sup>1</sup> *scutcheons*: ornamental metal decorations

<sup>2</sup> *pall*: a cloth draped over a coffin

<sup>3</sup> *meeter*: more appropriate

<sup>4</sup> *dam*: mother

<sup>5</sup> *obsequies*: funeral rites

## 4 20th Century American Prose

The passage comes from *Post Office* (1971) by Charles Bukowski.

In this passage the narrator and G.G. are working in a post office sorting depot. 'The Stone' is the nickname of the Superintendent, Mr Jonstone.

I was casing<sup>1</sup> next.....

**An extract has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions**

Details:

An extract from 'Post Office' by Charles Bukowski.

ISBN: 978-0061177576

.....He wouldn't stop.....

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An extract continued from the previous page

.....any purchase over \$3.

## 5 Drama Post-1945

The passage comes from Edmond (1982) by David Mamet (USA).

The scene takes place in a diner. Edmond is a customer and Glenna is his waitress.

GLENNA: Sometimes it's hard.....

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Details:

An extract from 'Edmond' by David Mamet.  
Taken from 'Woods, Lakeboat, Edmond' ISBN: 978-0802151094

EDMOND: .....plays have you done?.....

45



GLENNA: In college I played.....

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Details:

An extract continued from the previous page

GLENNA: .....what you're talking about.

6 Post-Colonial Literature

The passage comes from *Shame* (1983) by Salman Rushdie.

The novel *Shame* addresses, in part, the historical formation of the nation of Pakistan.

I, too, know something.....

**An extract has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions**

Details:

An extract from 'Shame' by Salman Rushdie.

ISBN: 978-0099578611

.....from memory, from Time.

<sup>1</sup> Mohajirs: muslims who emigrated to Pakistan after its partition from India

<sup>2</sup> ICI, Ciba-Geigy, Pfizer and Roche: multinational pharmaceutical companies

<sup>3</sup> NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (USA)



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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

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