

414/01

ENGLISH LITERATURE

ELit4: Poetry pre-1900

A.M. FRIDAY, 19 January 2007

(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. 'While for some *The Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale* offers simply a lesson on flattery, for others it is far more intricate.' How far do you agree with this judgement? Your discussion should include close reference to Chaucer's techniques.

Or,

2. 'Chaucer has created more than a fable - these creatures come alive.' 'Despite Chaucer's attempts to make the animals human, they remain inhabitants of the farmyard.' Which of these views of *The Nun's Priest's Tale* do you favour? In your response, you should refer in detail to Chaucer's techniques.

Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson

Or,

3. 'Dickinson's style is the most interesting aspect of her poetry.' How far do you agree with this judgement? In your response, make close reference to Dickinson's techniques in at least **three** of the selected poems.

Or,

4. How far do you agree that 'Dickinson's poetry rarely moves beyond religious concerns?' Refer closely to Dickinson's techniques in at least **three** of the selected poems.

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

Or,

5. 'Donne's greatness lies in his use of metaphor.' Do you agree? In your response make close reference to at least **three** of the set poems.

Or,

6. 'The struggle to give up worldly pleasures is central to both Herbert's and Vaughan's poetry.' Do you agree? Make close reference to at least **three** of the set poems, making sure that your chosen poems represent the work of **both** poets.

Keats: Selected Poems

Or,

7. 'Keats' greatest achievement lies in his ability to evoke the senses.' How far do you agree with this statement? Support your answer with close reference to at least **two** of the set poems.

Or,

8. 'Keats' use of imagery is the most memorable aspect of his poetic technique.'
'It is Keats' versatility of form and structure that is his greatest strength.'
With which statement do you most agree? Refer to at least **two** of the set poems in your answer.

Milton: Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2

Or,

9. 'Milton's Grand Style is the most interesting aspect of *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2*.' How far do you agree with this statement? In your response, you should make detailed reference to Milton's techniques.

Or,

10. 'Satan's purpose is to create a new social order.' In the light of this statement, how far do you see *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2* as a discussion of society and control?

Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems

Or,

11. To what extent do you agree that Rossetti's poetry is 'an instrument of liberation for womankind'? Support your argument with reference to at least **three** of the selected poems **or** *Goblin Market*.

Or,

12. 'Death, oblivion and rest lap around her songs with their dark wave.' In your opinion, how appropriate is this description of Rossetti's poetry? Your answer should refer to at least **three** of the selected poems.