

412/01

ENGLISH LITERATURE

ELit2: Choice of Texts

A.M. THURSDAY, 17 May 2007

(1½ Hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need:

- a copy of the text you have studied;
- a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question only.

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

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry equal marks. Within each question, **part (a)** and **part (b)** are equally weighted.

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

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

In **part (b)** 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;
- 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 answer.

Answer **one** question only.

Barker: Regeneration

Either,

1. (a) “Despite the presentation of the horrors of war, *Regeneration* is ultimately a hopeful novel.”

How far do you agree?

- (b) Re-read the extract which begins towards the bottom of page 177 “He was woken by what he immediately took to be the explosion of a bomb.”

to

“He looked at Burns’s sleeping face, and then tiptoed downstairs.” (middle of page 181: Penguin edition)

With detailed reference to language, structure and form, discuss Barker’s presentation of Rivers and his situation in this extract. Go on to discuss the importance of this extract in the novel as a whole.

Or,

2. (a) “*Regeneration* is a careful exploration of the conflict between protest and duty.”

To what extent do you agree with this view?

- (b) Re-read the extract which begins near the top of page 113 “Sassoon arrived at the Conservative Club about ten minutes early.”

to

“... as malice or greed might be the ruling characteristic of lesser men.” (page 116: Penguin edition)

With detailed reference to language, structure and form, examine Barker’s presentation of Sassoon and his situation in this extract. Go on to discuss the role of Sassoon in the novel as a whole.

Friel: Translations

Page references in the questions on this play may vary slightly depending on the particular Faber edition being used: a reset edition was printed in 2000.

Or,

3. (a) “The characters in *Translations* are unconvincing: their only purpose is to represent conflicting ideas and attitudes.”

To what extent do you agree with this view?

- (b) Re-read an extract from Act 3, from the stage direction “*Then Manus picks up his bag briskly and goes towards the door.*” (page 56 / page 72 in new edition)

to

the stage direction “*Maire leaves. Silence. Then.*” (page 60 / page 78 in new edition).

With detailed reference to Friel’s dramatic techniques, examine how the female characters are presented in this extract. Go on to discuss the role of **either** Sarah **or** Maire in the play as a whole.

Or,

4. (a) “*Translations* is a play concerned with political and cultural defeat.”

How far do you agree?

- (b) Re-read an extract from Act 3, from the stage direction “*Hugh is equally drunk but more experienced in drunkenness*” (page 64 / page 84 in the new edition) to Hugh’s words “It’s not a word I’d start with. It’s a silly word, girl.” (bottom of page 67 / page 90 in new edition).

With detailed reference to Friel’s dramatic techniques, examine the presentation of Hugh and his situation in this extract. Go on to discuss the role of Hugh in the play as a whole.

Humphreys: A Toy Epic

Or,

5. (a) “The characters of all three boys in *A Toy Epic* are portrayed as vivid, believable and unpredictable.”

How far do you agree with this view?

- (b) Re-read the end of Chapter 2, from “On our way to school, said Michael . . .” (page 35) to “I HAVE NO FRENED IN THE WIRLD.” (page 37: Seren edition)

With detailed reference to language, structure and form, discuss the presentation of Michael in this extract. To what extent does this extract prepare the reader for events later in the novel?

Or,

6. (a) “*A Toy Epic* is firmly rooted in Wales, but explores universal issues.”

To what extent do you agree with this opinion?

- (b) Re-read an extract from Chapter 8, from “My father is ill, said Iorwerth.” (page 92) to “Yes, even death.” (page 95: Seren edition)

With detailed reference to language, structure and form, discuss the presentation of Iorwerth’s home life in this extract. Go on to discuss the importance of this extract in the novel as a whole.

*Miller: Death of a Salesman***Or,**

7. (a) “He had the wrong dreams. All, all, wrong.”

To what extent do you agree with Biff’s view of his father, Willy Loman?

- (b) Re-read an extract from Act 1, from the stage direction “*Linda enters the forestage, as of old, carrying the wash basket.*” (page 31) to the end of Willy’s speech, “I was right! I was right! I was right!” (bottom of page 35: Heinemann edition)

How does Miller create dramatic impact in this extract? What is the importance of this extract in the play as a whole?

Or,

8. (a) “The female characters in *Death of a Salesman* are relatively unimportant.”

To what extent do you agree with this view?

- (b) Re-read an extract from Act 2, beginning with the stage direction “*Light on house area snaps out*” (page 83) to the stage direction “*They exit. STANLEY looks toward left*”. (Page 87: Heinemann edition)

How does Miller create dramatic tension in this extract? What is the importance of this extract in the play as a whole?

Dylan Thomas: Selected Poems
(Numbers 42 – 70 inclusive)

Or,

9. (a) “Thomas’s poems are dominated by a preoccupation with suffering and death.”

Does your reading of Thomas’s poetry support this view? Include in your answer specific reference to poems **other than** “There was a saviour”.

- (b) With detailed reference to language, structure and form, examine Thomas’s religious ideas in “There was a saviour” and in one other poem of your choice.

Or,

10. (a) “A love of the natural world is at the heart of Thomas’s poetry.”

To what extent do you agree with this view? Include in your answer specific reference to poems **other than** “Fern Hill”.

- (b) With detailed reference to language, structure and form, discuss Thomas’s attitude to childhood in the poem “Fern Hill” and in one other poem of your choice.

W. B. Yeats: Selected Poems

Or,

11. (a) “Yeats is primarily a great love poet.”

Does your reading of Yeats’s poetry support this view? Include in your answer specific reference to poems **other than** “A Prayer for My Daughter”.

- (b) With detailed reference to language, structure and form, examine Yeats’s presentation of beauty in “A Prayer for my Daughter” and in one other poem of your choice.

Or,

12. (a) “Ideas concerning old age and the loss of civilized values dominate Yeats’s poetry.”

To what extent do you agree with this view? Include in your answer specific reference to poems **other than** “The Second Coming”.

- (b) With detailed reference to language, structure and form, examine Yeats’s attitude to the passing of time in “The Second Coming” and in one other poem of your choice.