

414/01

ENGLISH LITERATURE

ELit4: Poetry pre-1900

A.M. MONDAY, 11 June 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. 'Chauntecleer is more hen-pecked husband than courtly lover.' To what extent do you agree with this assessment of Chaucer's presentation of Chauntecleer in *The Nun's Priest's Tale*? Your discussion should include close reference to Chaucer's techniques.

Or,

2. How far would you agree that *The Nun's Priest's Tale* is an appropriate match for its narrator, the Nun's Priest? Your discussion should include close reference to Chaucer's techniques.

Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson

Either ,

3. 'Dickinson's poetry is too domestic to address the weightier themes that poetry should engage with.' Through close analysis of Dickinson's techniques in at least **three** poems, explore how far you agree with this statement.

Or,

4. 'Dickinson's poetry is overwhelmed by sadness.' How far do you agree with this view? You should give careful consideration to Dickinson's techniques in at least **three** of the selected poems.

Graham (ed): A Selection of Metaphysical Poets

(Donne, Herbert and Vaughan)

Either ,

5. 'Donne's poetry often reduces women to little more than objects of lust.' Is this so? 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 tend to use their poems as vehicles for demonstrating their own learning'? 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 odes concern themselves with the same issues.' How fair is this representation of Keats's odes? Make close reference to Keats's techniques in at least **two** odes in your response.

Or,

8. 'The theme of loss is central to Keats's poetry.' How far do you agree with this statement? 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 in Books 1 and 2 'the main theme of *Paradise Lost* is disobedience'? In your response you should include detailed reference to Milton's techniques.

Or,

10. 'Milton's epic similes are so forced and elaborate that often all sense of meaning is lost.' By close analysis of *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2*, discuss how far you agree with this comment on Milton's style.

Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems

Either ,

11. 'Rossetti's style is simple and child-like.'
'Rossetti's poetry is far from simple; it probes complex, psychological issues.'
Which of these views do you find more persuasive? In your answer you should refer to at least **three** of the selected poems **or** *Goblin Market*.

Or,

12. 'The main theme in Rossetti's work is self-denial'. How far do you agree with this statement? Make close reference to Rossetti's use of form, structure and language in at least **three** of the selected poems in your response.