



**General Certificate of Education  
Advanced**

414/01

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

A.M. FRIDAY, 18 January 2008

(1  $\frac{1}{4}$  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 most memorable aspect of *The Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale* is Chaucer's use of comedy.' How far do you agree with this judgement? Your discussion should include close reference to Chaucer's techniques.

**Or,**

2. '*The Nun's Priest's Tale* teaches us very little.' By close reference to Chaucer's techniques, discuss how far you would agree with this view of *The Nun's Priest's Tale*.

***Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson***

**Or,**

3. 'Despite the controlled nature of her poems, Dickinson's poetry is emotional and passionate.' Discuss how far you agree with this view, making close reference to Dickinson's techniques in at least **three** of the selected poems.

**Or,**

4. 'Dickinson's poetry is too obscure to be understood.'  
'Dickinson's poetry speaks clearly on issues that concern all humankind.'  
Which of these views do you favour? 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)

**Or,**

5. 'The strength of Donne's poetry lies in its inventiveness and creativity.'  
'Donne's poetry is too contrived.'  
Which of these views do you favour? In your response you should refer in detail to Donne's language and techniques in at least **three** of the set poems.

**Or,**

6. 'Metaphysical poetry is overburdened with religious concerns.' In the light of this view, discuss the work of **more than one** poet from the selection, making close reference to at least **three** of the set poems.

***Keats: Selected Poems***

**Or,**

7. 'Keats's poetry is overwhelmed by sadness.' 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 is above all a nature poet.'  
'To suggest Keats's poetry is only concerned with nature is to limit his genius.'  
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. 'The theme of good versus evil is the main concern of *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2*.' How far do you agree with this statement? In your response you should include detailed reference to Milton's techniques.

**Or,**

10. 'The character of Satan is by far Milton's greatest achievement in *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2*.' How far do you agree with this view? In your response you should pay close attention to Milton's style.

***Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems***

**Or,**

11. To what extent do you agree that Rossetti's poetry is 'most interesting when it is exploring human relationships'? Make close reference to Rossetti's use of form, structure and language in at least **three** of the selected poems **or** *Goblin Market*.

**Or,**

12. 'Rossetti's religious poetry has a greater impact than her non-religious work.' To what extent do you agree with this opinion of Rossetti's poetry? Your answer should refer to at least **three** of the selected poems. In your response you should include detailed reference to Rossetti's techniques.