



GCE AS/A level

411/01

ENGLISH LITERATURE

ELit1: Shakespeare

A.M. FRIDAY, 16 May 2008

1 hour

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question only.

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

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Part (a) of each question, which focuses on an extract, is worth **one third** of the total marks for this paper.

Part (b) of each question, which refers to the whole text and contexts, is worth **two thirds**.

You are advised to divide your time accordingly.

In **part (a)** 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.

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

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

Answer one question only.

Shakespeare : King Lear

Either,

1. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's presentation of King Lear and Goneril.

<i>Lear</i>	<p>Meantime we shall express our darker purpose. Give me the map there. Know that we have divided In three our kingdom; and 'tis our fast intent To shake all cares and business from our age, Conferring them on younger strengths, while we 5 Unburden'd crawl toward death. Our son of Cornwall, And you, our no less loving son of Albany, We have this hour a constant will to publish Our daughters' several dowers, that future strife May be prevented now. The Princes, France and Burgundy, 10 Great rivals in our youngest daughter's love, Long in our court have made their amorous sojourn, And here are to be answer'd. Tell me, my daughters— Since now we will divest us both of rule, Interest of territory, cares of state— 15 Which of you shall we say doth love us most? That we our largest bounty may extend Where nature doth with merit challenge. Goneril, Our eldest-born, speak first.</p>	
<i>Goneril</i>	<p>Sir, I love you more than word can wield the matter; 20 Dearer than eyesight, space, and liberty; Beyond what can be valued, rich or rare; No less than life, with grace, health, beauty, honour; As much as child e'er lov'd or father found; A love that makes breath poor and speech unable: 25 Beyond all manner of so much I love you.</p>	

(Act I, Scene I)

- (b) "It is Lear's actions as a father rather than as a king that lead to the play's tragic consequences." How far do you agree with this view?

Shakespeare: Measure for Measure

Or,

3. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's portrayal of Claudio.

<i>Claudio</i>	Thus stands it with me: upon a true contract I got possession of Julietta's bed. You know the lady; she is fast my wife, Save that we do the denunciation lack Of outward order; this we came not to,	5
	Only for propagation of a dow'r Remaining in the coffer of her friends, From whom we thought it meet to hide our love Till time had made them for us. But it chances The stealth of our most mutual entertainment,	10
<i>Lucio</i>	With character too gross, is writ on Juliet. With child, perhaps?	
<i>Claudio</i>	Unhappily, even so. And the new deputy now for the Duke— Whether it be the fault and glimpse of newness,	15
	Or whether that the body public be A horse whereon the governor doth ride, Who, newly in the seat, that it may know He can command, lets it straight feel the spur;	20
	Whether the tyranny be in his place, Or in his eminence that fills it up, I stagger in. But this new governor Awakes me all the enrolled penalties Which have, like unscour'd armour, hung by th' wall	25
	So long that nineteen zodiacs have gone round And none of them been worn; and, for a name, Now puts the drowsy and neglected act Freshly on me. 'Tis surely for a name.	
<i>Lucio</i>	I warrant it is; and thy head stands so tickle on thy shoulders that a milkmaid, if she be in love, may sigh it off.	30
<i>Claudio</i>	Send after the Duke, and appeal to him. I have done so, but he's not to be found.	

(Act 1, Scene 2)

- (b) How far do you agree with the view that “there is little concern for individuals in the harsh state of *Measure for Measure's* Vienna”?

Shakespeare: Measure for Measure

Or,

4. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's portrayal of Isabella.

Enter Friar Peter and Isabella.

<i>Friar Peter</i>	Now is your time; speak loud, and kneel before him.	
<i>Isabella</i>	Justice, O royal Duke! Vail your regard Upon a wrong'd—I would fain have said a maid! O worthy Prince, dishonour not your eye By throwing it on any other object	5
<i>Duke</i>	Till you have heard me in my true complaint, And given me justice, justice, justice, justice. Relate your wrongs. In what? By whom? Be brief. Here is Lord Angelo shall give you justice; Reveal yourself to him.	10
<i>Isabella</i>	O worthy Duke, You bid me seek redemption of the devil! Hear me yourself; for that which I must speak Must either punish me, not being believ'd, Or wring redress from you. Hear me, O, hear me, here!	15
<i>Angelo</i>	My lord, her wits, I fear me, are not firm; She hath been a suitor to me for her brother, Cut off by course of justice—	
<i>Isabella</i>	By course of justice!	20
<i>Angelo</i>	And she will speak most bitterly and strange.	
<i>Isabella</i>	Most strange, but yet most truly, will I speak. That Angelo's forsworn, is it not strange? That Angelo's a murderer, is't not strange? That Angelo is an adulterous thief, An hypocrite, a virgin-violator, Is it not strange and strange?	25
<i>Duke</i>	Nay, it is ten times strange.	
<i>Isabella</i>	It is not truer he is Angelo Than this is all as true as it is strange; Nay, it is ten times true; for truth is truth To th'end of reck'ning.	30
<i>Duke</i>	Away with her. Poor soul, She speaks this in th' infirmity of sense.	

(Act 5, Scene 1)

- (b) How far do you agree with the view that “the ending of *Measure for Measure* frustrates our sense of justice”?

Shakespeare: The Merry Wives of Windsor

Or,

5. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's portrayal of Slender and Anne Page.

<i>Anne</i>	Will't please your worship to come in, sir?	
<i>Slender</i>	No, I thank you, forsooth, heartily; I am very well.	
<i>Anne</i>	The dinner attends you, sir.	
<i>Slender</i>	I am not a-hungry, I thank you, forsooth. Go, sirrah, for all you are my man, go wait upon my cousin Shallow. <i>[Exit Simple]</i> A justice of peace sometime may be beholding to his friend for a man. I keep but three men and a boy yet, till my mother be dead. But what though? Yet I live like a poor gentleman born.	5
<i>Anne</i>	I may not go in without your worship; they will not sit till you come.	
<i>Slender</i>	I'faith, I'll eat nothing; I thank you as much as though I did.	10
<i>Anne</i>	I pray you, sir, walk in.	
<i>Slender</i>	I had rather walk here, I thank you. I bruis'd my shin th'other day with playing at sword and dagger with a master of fence – three veney's for a dish of stew'd prunes – and, I with my ward defending my head, he hot my shin, and, by my troth, I cannot abide the smell of hot meat since. Why do your dogs bark so? Be there bears i' th' town?	15
<i>Anne</i>	I think there are, sir; I heard them talk'd of.	
<i>Slender</i>	I love the sport well; but I shall as soon quarrel at it as any man in England. You are afraid, if you see the bear loose, are you not?	20
<i>Anne</i>	Ay, indeed, sir.	
<i>Slender</i>	That's meat and drink to me now. I have seen Sackerson loose twenty times, and have taken him by the chain; but, I warrant you, the women have so cried and shriek'd at it that it pass'd; but women, indeed, cannot abide 'em; they are very ill-favour'd rough things.	25

(Act I, Scene I)

- (b) How far do you agree that “the humour of this play depends upon the presentation of silly but believable characters”?

Shakespeare: The Merry Wives of Windsor

Or,

6. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's portrayal of Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page.

<i>Mrs. Page</i>	Are you not ashamed? I think you have killed the poor woman.	
<i>Mrs. Ford</i>	Nay, he will do it. 'Tis a goodly credit for you.	
<i>Ford</i>	Hang her, witch!	
<i>Evans</i>	By yea and no, I think the woman is a witch indeed; I like not when a woman has a great beard; I spy a great beard under his muffler.	5
<i>Ford</i>	Will you follow, gentlemen? I beseech you follow; see but the issue of my jealousy; if I cry out thus upon no trail, never trust me when I open again.	
<i>Page</i>	Let's obey his humour a little further. Come, gentlemen.	
	<i>[Exeunt all but Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page.]</i>	10
<i>Mrs. Page</i>	Trust me, he beat him most pitifully.	
<i>Mrs. Ford</i>	Nay, by the mass, that he did not; he beat him most unpitifully methought.	
<i>Mrs. Page</i>	I'll have the cudgel hallowed and hung o'er the altar; it hath done meritorious service.	15
<i>Mrs. Ford</i>	What think you? May we, with the warrant of womanhood and the witness of a good conscience, pursue him with any further revenge?	
<i>Mrs. Page</i>	The spirit of wantonness is surely scar'd out of him; if the devil have him not in fee-simple, with fine and recovery, he will never, I think, in the way of waste, attempt us again.	20
<i>Mrs. Ford</i>	Shall we tell our husbands how we have served him?	
<i>Mrs. Page</i>	Yes, by all means; if it be but to scrape the figures out of your husband's brains. If they can find in their hearts the poor unvirtuous fat knight shall be any further afflicted, we two will still be the ministers.	25
<i>Mrs. Ford</i>	I'll warrant they'll have him publicly shamed; and methinks there would be no period to the jest, should he not be publicly shamed.	
<i>Mrs. Page</i>	Come, to the forge with it then; shape it. I would not have things cool.	

(Act 4, Scene 2)

- (b) How far do you agree with the view that "*The Merry Wives of Windsor* presents a harsh society intent on punishment and revenge"?

Shakespeare: Richard II

Or,

7. (a) By close analysis of the language in this extract, discuss Shakespeare's presentation of the Duchess of Gloucester.

<i>Duchess</i>	Where then, alas, may I complain myself?	
<i>Gaunt</i>	To God, the widow's champion and defence.	
<i>Duchess</i>	Why then I will. Farewell, old Gaunt. Thou goest to Coventry, there to behold Our cousin Hereford and fell Mowbray fight.	5
	O, sit my husband's wrongs on Hereford's spear, That it may enter butcher Mowbray's breast! Or, if misfortune miss the first career, Be Mowbray's sins so heavy in his bosom	
	That they may break his foaming courser's back And throw the rider headlong in the lists, A caitiff recreant to my cousin Hereford!	10
	Farewell, old Gaunt; thy sometimes brother's wife With her companion, Grief, must end her life.	
<i>Gaunt</i>	Sister, farewell; I must to Coventry.	15
	As much good stay with thee as go with me!	
<i>Duchess</i>	Yet one word more – grief boundeth where it falls, Not with the empty hollowness, but weight. I take my leave before I have begun, For sorrow ends not when it seemeth done.	20
	Commend me to thy brother, Edmund York. Lo, this is all – nay, yet depart not so; Though this be all, do not so quickly go; I shall remember more. Bid him – ah, what? – With all good speed at Plashy visit me.	25
	Alack, and what shall good old York there see But empty lodgings and unfurnish'd walls, Unpeopled offices, untrodden stones? And what hear there for welcome but my groans?	
	Therefore commend me; let him not come there To seek out sorrow that dwells every where. Desolate, desolate, will I hence and die; The last leave of thee takes my weeping eye.	30

(Act I, Scene 2)

- (b) "It is lack of power that most sharply defines the female characters in *Richard II*." How far do you agree with this view of the play?

