



**GCE AS/A level**

412/01

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**  
**ELit2: Choice of Texts**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 14 May 2008

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) “Dreams, hallucinations and nightmares – their use may excite the reader but they serve little other purpose.” In relation to *Regeneration*, to what extent do you agree with this critic’s view?

- (b) Re-read Chapter 11 (pages 121-125: Penguin edition).

With detailed reference to language, structure and form, discuss Barker’s presentation of the relationship between Owen and Sassoon in this chapter. Go on to discuss the contribution of their relationship to the novel as a whole.

**Or,**

2. (a) “In *Regeneration*, Barker portrays Rivers as rather a saintly figure, beyond criticism.”

To what extent do you agree with this view?

- (b) Re-read the beginning of chapter 14, from “Hymn No. 373.” (page 149) to “*My dear Siegfried. . .*” (page 156: Penguin edition).

With detailed reference to language, structure and form, examine Barker’s presentation of the relationship between fathers and sons in this extract. Go on to discuss the importance of the father-son relationship 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) “Political events may be important but *Translations* dramatizes the way personal life triumphs over them.”

To what extent do you agree with this view?

- (b) Re-read the opening of the play (page 11/page 1 in new edition) to Manus’s words, “I suppose I may take the class then.” (page 14/page 6 in new edition).

With detailed reference to dramatic techniques and use of language, examine the ways in which Friel creates dramatic impact in this extract. Go on to discuss the importance of the opening to the play as a whole.

**Or,**

4. (a) “*Translations* is a bitter play in which the Irish are portrayed as backward, weak and as ridiculous dreamers.”

How far do you agree?

- (b) Re-read an extract from Act 2, from Yolland’s words “What was that he said?” (page 37/page 43 in new edition)  
to  
Owen’s words, “You can learn to decode us.” (page 40/bottom of page 48, new edition).

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

***Humphreys: A Toy Epic***

**Or,**

5. (a) “Above all, *A Toy Epic* is a novel about anglicisation, in particular the struggle between the Welsh and English languages.”

How far do you agree with this view?

- (b) Re-read the opening of Chapter 2 ( page 28 )  
to  
“He turns and goes into the back kitchen to bathe his nose.” (page 30: Seren edition).

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

**Or,**

6. (a) “People don’t necessarily turn out as they start.”

How far is this true of the characters in *A Toy Epic*?

- (b) Re-read the ending of the novel from, “As the sun set, said Michael...” (page 119)  
to  
“...and another the outer darkness.” (page 121: Seren edition).

With detailed reference to language, structure and form, discuss Humphrey’s final presentation of the three boys. How satisfactory do you find this ending?

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

7. (a) “Parental expectations destroy Biff and Happy.”

To what extent do you agree with this view?

- (b) Re-read the beginning of the play from the stage direction “A melody is heard...” (page 1) to the end of Willy’s speech, “How can they whip cheese?” (top of page 7: Heinemann edition).

With close attention to language, dramatic techniques and structure, examine the role of Linda at the beginning of the play. Go on to discuss the role of Linda in the play as a whole.

**Or,**

8. (a) “You fake! You phony little fake! You fake!”

To what extent do you agree with Biff’s judgement of his father?

- (b) Re-read an extract from Act 2, beginning with the stage direction “Biff looks at him a moment” (page 99) to Willy’s words, “That boy – that boy is going to be magnificent!” (bottom page 102: Heinemann edition).

How does Miller create dramatic impact 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 only concerned with sound.”

Does your reading of Thomas’s poetry support this view? Include in your answer specific reference to poems **other than** “Among those Killed in the Dawn Raid was a Man Aged a Hundred”.

- (b) With detailed reference to language, structure and form, examine Thomas’s treatment of death in “Among those Killed in the Dawn Raid was a Man Aged a Hundred” and in **one** other poem of your choice.

Or,

10. (a) “Full of surprises and strange imagery.”

How far do you agree with this view of Thomas’s poetry? Include in your answer specific reference to poems **other than** “This side of the truth (for Llewelyn)”.

- (b) With detailed reference to language, structure and form examine the poem “This side of the truth (for Llewelyn)”. To what extent do you find this poem typical of others by Thomas that you have read?

Or,

*W. B. Yeats: Selected Poems*

11. (a) “Yeats romanticizes the past and despises the present.”

Does your reading of Yeats’s poetry support this view? Include in your answer specific reference to poems **other than** “The Fisherman”.

- (b) With detailed reference to language, structure and form examine Yeats’s presentation of the relationship of the poet and his audience in “The Fisherman” and in **one** other poem of your choice.

Or,

12. (a) “Dreams and myths, not the real world, are Yeats’s main interest in his poetry.”

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

- (b) With detailed reference to language, structure and form, examine Yeats’s presentation of the natural world in “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” and in **one** other poem of your choice.