

Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE English Literature (4360) Paper 01 Written
(Drama & Prose)

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4360/01: Drama and Prose/Winter 2009

Introduction

This 2009, winter examination successfully enabled a range of candidates to show their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Drama and Prose texts they had studied.

The candidate was expected to make two responses, one on a Drama text and one on a Prose text, in one and a half hours; forty five minutes on each section of the examination.

Centres are familiar with the expectations from this examination; time management did not appear to cause any problems.

Candidate choices - Texts

Of the five choices available on the two sections of the examination paper, familiar Drama texts such as 'Julius Caesar', 'The Importance of Being Earnest' and 'A View from a Bridge' and the Prose text 'Pride and Prejudice' proved unsurprisingly to be the most popular choices.

A reasonable number of candidates opted for alternatives such as 'A Doll's House', 'My Children! My Africa!', 'Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress' and the short stories from the collection.

Advice for Centres

The best answers supported perceptive commentary with brief and appropriate evidence. These candidates offered insightful and detailed material, often a personal response, which was focused, with a sustained analysis and were therefore credited with higher marks.

Weaker candidates tended to narrate the story, summarise the plot or write about the characters in detail, instead of focusing specifically on what was being asked in the question.

Fewer responses gained top marks, often because candidates' responses demonstrated a lack of sustained focus; often candidates shared their wide knowledge and understanding of the whole text; some candidates appeared afraid to omit information, for example, many responses to the question 'A View from A Bridge' re-told the entire story rather than concentrating on examples in the play that showed Eddie's changing character.

iGCSE English Literature:

Option 1

01 WRITTEN (DRAMA AND PROSE)

02 WRIT.ALTERNATIVE (POETRY)

Paper No	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Lwr	81	72	63	54	44	34	25	16

Option 2

01 WRITTEN (DRAMA AND PROSE)

03 COURSEWORK (POETRY)

Paper No	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Lwr	83	72	61	51	41	31	22	13

Option 3

01 WRITTEN (DRAMA AND PROSE)

03T TRANSF.COURSEWORK(POETRY)

Paper No	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Lwr	83	72	61	51	41	31	22	13

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.

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