

Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE English Literature (4360) Paper 02 Written
Alternative (Poetry)

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4360/02: Poetry/Winter 2009

Introduction

The summer 2009 examination successfully enabled a range of candidates to show their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the poems in the Poetry Anthology they had studied.

The candidate was expected to make one response, in forty five minutes, on two poems from the anthology booklet.

Centres are familiar with the expectations from this examination and time management did not prove problematic.

Candidate choices

Candidates chose between two questions. The second question proved to be the most popular; often demonstrating a developed understanding of the writer's craft and purpose and the theme of death.

Candidates need to respond to the question asked.

The best answers supported evaluative commentary with brief and appropriate evidence. Top candidates made personal and authentic responses that focused on both poems, rather than one poem at a time. Few responses appeared to be 'prepared' with lengthy introductions that at times were irrelevant to the question set.

It is important that centres discourage candidates from responding to one poem at a time, some candidates separated their response to each poem, by writing these on separate pages; many conclusions were ineffective or missing altogether.

Candidates are likely to score higher marks if they compare and contrast two poems alongside one another, demonstrating a sound awareness of the links

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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