

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

IGCSE

IGCSE English Literature (4360) Paper 01

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Introduction

This English Literature examination successfully enables a wide range of candidates to show their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Drama and Prose texts they have studied.

The candidate is 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 paper.

Centres are familiar with the expectations from this examination; time management did not appear to cause many 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 texts, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* proved to be the most popular choices.

Information for Centres

- Most responses from candidates showed a clear focus and there was evidence of a successful learning style: aspects of literature are often taught thoroughly. Many sophisticated responses came from candidates who explored both the writer's craft and the historical/cultural context.
- Most candidates answering questions 1 and 3; *Julius Caesar* and *A Doll's House* did so extremely well. Question 2 on the character of Algernon was answered invariably well with candidates engaging with the contextual aspects, often exploring Wilde's satirical style and social observations of late Victorian England.
- Less focused responses came from Q6a: often responses did not fully or equally compare and contrast the characters of Darcy and Bennet. Equally, the responses to question 7b about the 'enemies of the people' often showed the candidate 'running out of' points and ideas.
- Some examiners were concerned about the small, yet significant amount of responses that appeared to be 'prepared': often these analytical responses lacked focus, personal engagement and originality.

IGCSE English Literature: 4360 Grade Boundaries

Option 1 - 01, 02

*	A	B	C	D	E	F
82	73	64	56	46	36	27

Option 2 - 01, 03

*	A	B	C	D	E	F
84	73	62	52	42	33	24

Option 3 - 01, 03T

*	A	B	C	D	E	F
84	73	62	52	42	33	24

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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