

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

IGCSE

IGCSE English Literature (4360) Paper 03

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Most candidates held to the tried and tested thematic topics of the anthology such as childhood, love, death's approach etc. but a few more than usual tackled the poems in the Thoughts section. Overall by far the most popular poems were '*Piano*', '*Plena Timoris*', '*Crabbit Old Woman*' and '*Refugee Mother and Child*'.

The great majority of candidates showed understanding of the overall idea of each poem. Mastery of the detail grew, as would be expected, with the ability of the candidate but there were some surprising misunderstandings or omissions, usually only one or two in each case, that marred the work of otherwise strong candidates. Typical were those who confused the two women in '*Piano*' and '*Plena Timoris*'; who were unsure what it was proposed the man and woman respectively should do in '*For Me From You*'; and who thought the refugee mother was actually putting flowers on the child's grave.

Response to the poets' language and its general effect on tone and mood was evident in most folders but it is the ability to analyse the reason why the poets choose specific words in order to achieve particular effects that distinguishes the better candidates. Many failed to go beyond identifying the figures of speech and referring vaguely to imagery or the senses. Without analysis of some of the "powerful and emotive" words this type of response does not merit the highest grades. It is important that assessors make the distinction between these sorts of statements and those where the analysis is detailed and precise and are deservedly rewarded highly.

As far as administration is concerned, centres should take note that, if marks are not submitted electronically, the top copy of the OPTEMS should be sent to Edexcel, Hellaby (the address is on the OPTEMS) and only the yellow copy to the moderator. Several centres made errors in the transfer of marks from the folder cover sheet to the OPTEMS that at times made their assessments appear to be less accurate than the folder marks suggested.

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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