

**ENGLISH - HIGHER LEVEL - PAPER II**

41850

WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE - AFTERNOON, 2.00 - 5.00

**Total marks: 240**

Four questions must be attempted, as follows:-

Candidates must attempt Question A in Section I (Drama). They must also attempt one question from Section II (Poetry), and one question from Section III (Fiction). They may take their fourth question from whichever Section they wish.

Each question on this paper carries 60 marks.

**N.B.** In the Sections on Drama and Fiction, if a question contains alternatives, candidates may not attempt both alternatives in that question.

**I. DRAMA**

**A HAMLET (Shakespeare)**

- (i) "In their deadly conflict Hamlet and Claudius are two unscrupulous and clever adversaries."

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer by quotation from or reference to the play, *Hamlet*.

**OR**

- (ii) Consider the qualities of the play, *Hamlet*, which account for its popularity as a play throughout the ages.

Support your answer by quotation from or reference to the play.

**B THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD (Synge)**

- (i) "For all the poetic talk of love in the play, it is realism that triumphs in the end."

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer by quotation from or reference to *The Playboy of the Western World*.

**OR**

- (ii) Discuss the importance of the character, Widow Quin, in the play, *The Playboy of the Western World*.

Support your answer by quotation from or reference to the play.

**C DEATH OF A SALESMAN (Miller)**

- (i) "Miller's *Death of a Salesman* vividly sets side by side the dreams of the past with the agonies of the present."

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer by quotation from or reference to the play.

**OR**

- (ii) "Linda is unconditional in her love for Willie Loman but she is not blameless in his failure."

Discuss this view, supporting your answer by quotation from or reference to the play, *Death of a Salesman*.

**D ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD (Stoppard)**

- (i) "As experienced by Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, human life is absurd."

Discuss this view, supporting the points you make by quotation from or reference to the play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.

**OR**

- (ii) "The stage itself is the source of Stoppard's most important images, symbols and insights in his play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*."

Discuss this view, supporting the points you make by quotation from or reference to the play.

**II. POETRY**

**A**

Lines composed a few miles above

**Tintern Abbey  
(Lines 22-57)**

These beautiful forms,  
Through a long absence, have not been to me  
As is a landscape to a blind man's eye:  
But oft, in lonely rooms, and 'mid the din 25  
Of towns and cities, I have owed to them,  
In hours of weariness, sensations sweet,  
Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart;  
And passing even into my purer mind,  
With tranquil restoration: — feelings too 30  
Of unremembered pleasure: such, perhaps,  
As have no slight or trivial influence  
On that best portion of a good man's life,  
His little, nameless, unremembered, acts  
Of kindness and of love. Nor less, I trust, 35  
To them I may have owed another gift,  
Of aspect more sublime; that blessed mood,

In which the burthen of the mystery,  
 In which the heavy and the weary weight  
 Of all this unintelligible world, 40  
 Is lightened: — that serene and blessed mood,  
 In which the affections gently lead us on, —  
 Until, the breath of this corporeal frame  
 And even the motion of our human blood  
 Almost suspended, we are laid asleep 45  
 In body, and become a living soul:  
 While with an eye made quiet by the power  
 Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,  
 We see into the life of things.

If this

Be but a vain belief, yet oh! how oft — 50  
 In darkness and amid the many shapes  
 Of joyless daylight; when the fretful stir  
 Unprofitable, and the fever of the world,  
 Have hung upon the beatings of my heart —  
 How oft, in spirit, have I turned to thee, 55  
 O sylvan Wye! thou wanderer thro' the woods,  
 How often has my spirit turned to thee!

William Wordsworth

- (i) According to the above passage, what gifts did Wordsworth owe to the "beauteous forms"?
- (ii) "Poetry is a heightened form of ordinary speech."  
 Discuss this statement, supporting your answer by reference to the above passage.
- (iii) Answer **ONE** of the following:
- (a) Discuss Wordsworth's concern for people as expressed throughout the poem, *Tintern Abbey*.
- (b) Excluding reference to the passage above, comment on Wordsworth's ability to create memorable word pictures in *Tintern Abbey*.
- (c) *Tintern Abbey* could be described as an optimistic poem. Do you find optimism in the other poems by Wordsworth on your course?

Support your answer by quotation or reference.

**B** "In the poetry of Keats we see the poet striving towards a satisfying notion of permanence."

Discuss this view, supporting your answer by quotation from or reference to the poetry of Keats on your course.

**C** "The magic of childhood and, alas, its transience are superbly evoked in Thomas's *Fern' Hill*."

Discuss this view, supporting your answer by relevant quotation or reference.

**D** "A troubled consciousness is what is most dramatically in evidence in Kinsella's poetry."

Discuss this view, supporting your answer by quotation from or reference to the two poems by Kinsella on your course.

**E** "Poetry springs from the fruitful traffic between the poet's inner feelings and external realities."

Discuss the above statement in its entirety, in relation to **any two** poets on your course.

(N.B. You may not select a poet on whom you have already answered in this Section.) **OVER→**

### III. FICTION

#### A EMMA (*Austen*)

- (i) "Mr George Knightley (that is, Emma's Mr Knightley) has a crucially important role as Austen's champion of duty and truth in the novel, *Emma*."

Discuss this view, supporting the points you make by reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) "The voice that tells the story in the novel, *Emma*, is systematically ironic."

Discuss this view, supporting the points you make by reference to the novel.

#### B A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN (*Joyce*)

- (i) "What impresses us most about *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is its abundance of splendid scenes."

Discuss this view, supporting your answer by reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) "Symbolism is an important part of the narrative technique of *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*."

Discuss this view, supporting the points you make by reference to the novel.

#### C THE MODERN NOVEL

(N.B. In answering either of the following questions on the modern novel, you may not take either *Emma* or *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* as a modern novel.)

- (i) "The modern novel is highly critical of society."

Discuss this view, supporting your answer by reference to **one or more** of the modern novels on your course.

OR

- (ii) "The modern novelist is more interested in human failure than in human triumph."

Discuss this view, supporting your answer by reference to **one or more** of the modern novels on your course.