

ENGLISH - HIGHER LEVEL - PAPER II

WEDNESDAY, 11 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 KING LEAR (Shakespeare)

- (i) "Our initial disapproval of Lear in Shakespeare's *King Lear* develops ultimately into a profound sympathy for him."

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

OR

- (ii) "The tendency to take pleasure in torture, in deceit and in the abuse of power is vividly dramatised in the play *King Lear*."

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

B A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS (Bolt)

- (i) "In *A Man for All Seasons* Bolt heightens our sense of More's integrity by setting him in a world dominated by compromise and cynicism."

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

OR

- (ii) Discuss the use of conflict as a dramatic device in the play, *A Man for All Seasons*.

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

C THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS (O'Casey)

- (i) "Rather to our surprise, Bessie Burgess turns out in the end to be the real hero of *The Plough and the Stars*."

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

OR

- (ii) "*The Plough and the Stars* is a vibrant spectacle that has instant audience appeal."

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

D WAITING FOR GODOT (Beckett)

- (i) "Beckett's characters in *Waiting for Godot* poignantly embody the agony of human existence."

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

OR

- (ii) "The popularity of *Waiting for Godot* is explained by the fact that it is a combination of slapstick comedy and tragic drama."

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

II. POETRY

- A** "*Book 1 of Paradise Lost* by Milton subtly represents the deceptive attractiveness of evil."

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

- B** "Emily Dickinson's vision of death and immortality is wonderfully conveyed in verse of stark grandeur and intensity."

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

C Felix Randal

Felix Randal the farrier, O he is dead then ? my duty all
ended,
Who have watched his mould of man, big-boned and hardy-
handsome
Pining, pining, till time when reason rambled in it and some
Fatal four disorders, fleshed there, all contended?

Sickness broke him. Impatient he cursed at first, but mended
Being anointed and all; though a heavenlier heart began some
Months earlier, since I had our sweet reprieve and ransom
Tendered to him. Ah well, God rest him all road ever he
offended!

5

This seeing the sick endears them to us, us too it endears.
My tongue had taught thee comfort, touch had quenched thy
tears,
Thy tears that touched my heart, child, Felix, poor Felix
Randal;

10

How far from then forethought of, all thy more boisterous
years,
When thou at the random grim forge, powerful amidst peers,
Didst fettle for the great grey drayhorse his bright and battering
sandal!

Gerard Manley Hopkins

- (i) "The full humanity of the farrier, his frailty as well as his strength, is movingly evoked by Hopkins in *Felix Randal*."

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

- (ii) Discuss Hopkins's use of language in *Felix Randal*.

- (iii) Answer **ONE** of the following:-

- (a) Comment briefly on the meaning and poetic impact of the following two phrases:

(i) "... our sweet reprieve and ransom"

(ii) "... his bright and battering sandal".

- (b) Discuss the nature of the poet's relationship with the farrier, as it is revealed in the above poem.

Support your answer by relevant quotation or reference.

- (c) How is human mortality dealt with in Hopkins's poem, *That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire*?

Support your answer by relevant quotation or reference.

- D "Kavanagh's poems are eloquent revelations of the ordinary."

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

- E "Poetry is stimulating because it is language used at its richest and most accurate in defining and enlarging experience."

Discuss the above statement 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.)

III. FICTION

A WUTHERING HEIGHTS (*Brontë*)

- (i) "*Wuthering Heights* is a story of towering passion and calculated revenge."

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

OR

- (ii) "At the end of the novel *Wuthering Heights* moderation and civility are triumphant but the reader is also conscious of what has been lost."

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

B CASTLE RACKRENT (*Edgeworth*)

- (i) "The Rackrent story is a grimly moral tale of extravagance and ruin."

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

OR

- (ii) "Sir Condy wins our sympathy more than he incurs our contempt."

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

C (N.B. In answering either of the following questions on the modern novel, you may not take either *Wuthering Heights* or *Castle Rackrent* as a modern novel.)

- (i) "The feeling that people are not in control of their lives is very strong in the modern novel."

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

OR

- (ii) "The modern novel offers no remedy for the human ills it portrays."

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