

AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA
LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1998

M.12

ENGLISH - HIGHER LEVEL - PAPER II

WEDNESDAY, 10 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 OTHELLO (Shakespeare)

- (i) "Irony is a powerful dramatic device used by Shakespeare to heighten the tragic dimension of his play *Othello*."

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

OR

- (ii) "Despite the striking portrayals of goodness and nobility, the play *Othello* leaves the audience with a sense of dismal despair."

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

B JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK (O'Casey)

- (i) Discuss O'Casey's use of comedy in his play, *Juno and the Paycock*.

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

OR

- (ii) "While Boyle's character is essentially hypocritical and irresponsible, he is portrayed in *Juno and the Paycock* as attractively endearing."

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

C LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT (O'Neill)

- (i) "In *Long Day's Journey into Night* the Tyrones struggle with and become victims of the destructive forces within themselves."

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

OR

- (ii) "Mary Tyrone's preoccupation with the past and her inability to cope with the present are dramatically portrayed in *Long Day's Journey into Night*."

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

D THE GLASS MENAGERIE (Williams)

- (i) "*The Glass Menagerie* portrays characters who are victims of their own frustrations and loneliness."

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

OR

- (ii) Discuss the role of the dramatic techniques used by Tennessee Williams in his play *The Glass Menagerie*.

Support your answer by relevant quotation or reference.

II. POETRY

- A** "Herbert skilfully uses the resources of poetry to affirm his religious values."

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

B *from Absalom and Achitophel*

Of these the false *Achitophel* was first,
A Name to all succeeding Ages curst.
For close Designs and crooked Counsels fit,
Sagacious, Bold, and Turbulent of wit,
Restless, unfixt in Principles and Place, 5
In Pow'r unpleas'd, impatient of Disgrace;
A fiery Soul, which working out its way,
Fretted the Pigmy Body to decay:
And o'r informed the Tenement of Clay. 10
A daring Pilot in extremity;
Pleas'd with the Danger when the Waves went high
He sought the Storms; but, for a Calm unfit,
Would Steer too nigh the Sands to boast his Wit.
Great Wits are sure to Madness near allid 15
And thin Partitions do their Bounds divide;
Else, why should he, with Wealth and Honour blest,
Refuse his Age the needful hours of Rest?

Punish a Body which he could not please,
 Bankrupt of Life, yet Prodigal of Ease? 20
 And all to leave what with his Toil he won
 To that unfeather'd two-legg'd thing, a Son:
 Got, while his Soul did huddled Notions trie;
 And born a shapeless Lump, like Anarchy.
 In Friendship false, Implacable in Hate, 25
 Resolv'd to Ruine or to Rule the State;
 To Compass this the Triple Bond he broke;
 The Pillars of the Publick Safety shook,
 And fitted *Israel* for a Foreign Yoke;
 Then, seiz'd with Fear, yet still affecting Fame,
 Usurp'd a Patriot's All-atoning Name. 30
 So easie still it proves in Factious Times
 With publick Zeal to cancel private Crimes:
 How safe is Treason and how sacred ill,
 Where none can sin against the Peoples Will,
 Where Crouds can wink; and no offence be known, 35
 Since in anothers guilt they find their own.

John Dryden

(I) From your reading of the above extract, what do you think it is about Achitophel that most disturbs the poet?

Support your answer by relevant quotation or reference.

(II) How effective is Dryden's use of heroic couplet in the above extract?

Support your answer by relevant quotation or reference.

(III) Answer ONE of the following:-

(a) Briefly discuss what you think Dryden has gained by giving his contemporary story a biblical guise.

Support your answer by relevant quotation or reference.

(b) Discuss Dryden's power to portray character as exemplified in the full extract from *Absalom and Achitophel* on your course.

Support your answer by relevant quotation or reference.

(c) Compare Dryden's tone towards Achitophel in the above extract with the tone he adopts towards Shadwell in the extract on your course from *Mac Flecknoe*.

C "Hardy's poetry is striking in its lyrical expression of the joys and misfortunes of life."

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

D "Yeats's masterful style - particularly his use of symbolism - richly expresses a great variety of themes, personal and political."

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

E "Good poetry, in a vivid way, makes contact with humanity's most vital experiences and interests."

Discuss this statement as it applies 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 SILAS MARNER (*Eliot*)

- (i) "The novel *Silas Marner* exhibits a remarkable combination of humour and seriousness."
Discuss this view, supporting the points you make by appropriate reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) "George Eliot deals with the lives of the ordinary people with sympathy and admiration."
Discuss this view, supporting your answer by suitable reference to the novel *Silas Marner*.

B WASHINGTON SQUARE (*James*)

- (i) "Despite her weakness, Catherine Sloper is worthy of the status of heroine in the novel *Washington Square*."
Discuss this view, supporting your answer by suitable reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) "The shortcomings of wit and intelligence, divorced from the values of the heart, are vividly demonstrated in the novel *Washington Square*."
Discuss this view, supporting your answer by suitable 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 *Silas Marner* or *Washington Square* as a modern novel.)

- (i) "The instinct to survive and endure is a powerful force 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 heroes of the modern novel are not at peace with themselves; they are anxious and uncertain."
Discuss this view, supporting your answer by reference to one or more of the modern novels on your course.