

AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA
LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2001

English – Higher Level – Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 6th June — Afternoon, 1.30 – 4.50

Candidates must attempt the following: —

- **ONE** question from SECTION I — The Single Text
- **ONE** question from SECTION II — The Comparative Study
- **THE QUESTIONS** on The Unseen Poem from SECTION III — Poetry
- **ONE** question on Prescribed Poetry from SECTION III — Poetry

N.B. Candidates must answer on Shakespearean Drama.

They may do so in SECTION I, The Single Text (*King Lear, Hamlet*)

Or in SECTION II, The Comparative Study (*Hamlet, Henry V, King Lear, Othello*)

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SECTION I
THE SINGLE TEXT (60 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from this section (A — F).

A JANE EYRE — Charlotte Brontë

- (i) “Despite great changes in her life’s circumstances, Jane Eyre remains true to herself.”

Do you agree with this view of Jane? Support your answer by reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) “Injustice is a major feature of the world of Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*.”

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

B GREAT EXPECTATIONS — Charles Dickens

- (i) “Magwitch’s act of generosity towards Pip has both negative and positive effects on the development of Pip’s character throughout the novel.”

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

OR

- (ii) “*Great Expectations* is a masterpiece, full of memorable incidents and bizarre characters.”

Do you agree with this assessment of the novel? Support your answer by reference to the novel.

C FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD — Thomas Hardy

- (i) What is your view of the decisions Bathsheba makes in matters of romance and affairs of the heart? Support your answer by reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) “The characters, Oak, Troy and Boldwood, represent different aspects of male behaviour and values.”

Discuss this statement supporting your points by reference to the novel.

D KING LEAR — William Shakespeare

- (i) What, in your view, are the most important changes that take place in the character of Lear during the play, *King Lear*? Support your points by reference to the play.

OR

- (ii) “Scenes of great suffering and of great tenderness help to make *King Lear* a very memorable play.”

Discuss this statement, supporting your answer by reference to the play, *King Lear*.

E HAMLET — William Shakespeare

- (i) “The struggle between Hamlet and Claudius is a fascinating one.”

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

OR

- (ii) Choose the scene from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* that in your view was the most dramatic. Discuss your choice, supporting your answer by reference to the play. [Textual support may include reference to a particular performance of the play that you have seen.]

F ANTIGONE — Sophocles

- (i) “*Antigone* is memorable for its ideas and for its dramatic action.”

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

OR

- (ii) How would you judge the attitudes and behaviour of the character of Antigone throughout Sophocles’s play? Support your views by reference to the text.



SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from **either A** — Theme or Issue **or B** — Literary Genre.

In your answer you may not use the text you have answered on in **SECTION I** — The Single Text.

N.B. The questions use the word **text** to refer to all the different kinds of texts available for study on this course, i.e. novel, play, short story, autobiography, biography, travel and film. The questions use the word **author** to refer to novelists, playwrights, writers in all genre, and film-directors.

A THEME OR ISSUE

1. “Narratives can broaden our understanding of a theme or issue.”

Compare the texts you have studied in your comparative course in the light of the above statement. Support your comparisons by reference to the texts. (70)

OR

2. “A key moment in a narrative text can illustrate a theme or issue very powerfully.”

(a) Choose **one** of the texts you studied as part of your comparative course and show how an important moment from it illustrates a theme or issue. (30)

(b) Write a short comparative commentary on **one key moment** from each of the other texts you have studied in the light of your discussion in part (a) above. (40)

B LITERARY GENRE

- 1.** Write an essay on **one or more** of the aspects of literary genre (the way texts tell their stories) which you found most interesting in the texts you studied in your comparative course. Your essay should make clear comparisons between the texts you choose to write about. (70)

OR

- 2.** “No two texts are exactly the same in the manner in which they tell their stories.”
 - (a)** Compare **two** of the texts you have studied in your comparative course in the light of the above statement. Support the comparisons you make by reference to the texts. (40)
 - (b)** Write a short comparative commentary on a third text from your comparative study in the light of your discussion in part (a) above. (30)



SECTION III

POETRY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **A** – Unseen Poem **and** **B** – Prescribed Poetry.

A UNSEEN POEM (20 marks)

Answer questions **1 and 2**.

In this poem by Edna St Vincent Millay the princess recalls a moment that fills her with sadness.

Read the poem at least twice and then answer the questions that follow it.

THE PRINCESS RECALLS HER ONE ADVENTURE

Hard is my pillow
Of down from the duck's breast,
Harsh the linen cover;
I cannot rest.

Fall down, my tears,
Upon the fine hem,
Upon the lonely letters
Of my long name;
Drown the sigh of them.

We stood by the lake
And we neither kissed nor spoke;
We heard how the small waves
Lurched and broke
And chuckled in the rock.

We spoke and turned away.
We never kissed at all.
Fall down, my tears.
I wish that you might fall
On the road by the lake,
Where my cob* went lame,
And I stood with the groom
Till the carriage came.

* a horse

1. (a) What, in your opinion, has made the princess sad? (4)
(b) Choose two phrases from the poem that show best how she is feeling. Write each one down and say, in each case, why you have chosen it. (6)
2. What kind of life do you imagine the princess lives? Explain your view by referring to words or phrases from the poem. (10)

B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** of the following questions (**1 — 4**).

1. “Introducing Elizabeth Bishop.”

Write out the text of a short presentation you would make to your friends or class group under the above title. Support your point of view by reference to or quotation from the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop that you have studied.

2. Often we love a poet because of the feelings his/her poems create in us. Write about the feelings John Keats’s poetry creates in you and the aspects of the poems (their content and/or style) that help to create those feelings. Support your points by reference to the poetry by Keats that you have studied.

3. Write an essay in which you outline your reasons for liking and/or not liking the poetry of Philip Larkin. Support your points by reference to the poetry of Larkin that you have studied.

4. What impact did the poetry of Michael Longley make on you as a reader? In shaping your answer you might consider some of the following:

- *Your overall sense of the personality or outlook of the poet*
- *The poet’s use of language and imagery*
- *Your favourite poem or poems.*

