



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2010

English - Higher Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Thursday, June 10 – Afternoon, 2.00 – 5.20

Candidates must attempt the following :-

- ONE question from SECTION I – The Single Text
- ONE question from SECTION II – The Comparative Study
- ONE question 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*) or in SECTION II, The Comparative Study (*King Lear, The Tempest*).

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SECTION I
THE SINGLE TEXT (60 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from this section (A – E).

A WUTHERING HEIGHTS – Emily Brontë

- (i) “Unlike Heathcliff, Hareton maintains a positive attitude to the world.”

Discuss this statement with reference to both Hareton and Heathcliff.
Support your answer with suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “Emily Brontë explores extremes of passion and reason in interesting ways in the novel *Wuthering Heights*.”

Respond to this statement supporting your answer with suitable reference to the text.

B DANCING AT LUGHNASA – Brian Friel

- (i) “Of the five Mundy sisters, Kate finds the changing world most threatening.”

Discuss this statement with reference to Kate and at least one of her sisters, supporting your answer with suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Identify at least two dramatic contrasts used by Friel in *Dancing at Lughnasa*.
Discuss the importance of these contrasts in the play.

Support your answer with suitable reference to the text.

C KING LEAR – William Shakespeare

- (i) “In *King Lear* honour and loyalty triumph over brutality and viciousness.”

Write your response to this statement supporting your answer with suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “In *King Lear* the villainous characters hold more fascination for the audience than the virtuous ones.”

Discuss this statement with reference to at least one villainous and one virtuous character. Support your answer with suitable reference to the text.

D THE GRAPES OF WRATH – John Steinbeck

- (i) “In *The Grapes of Wrath*, Tom Joad grows as a person through his engagement with key characters and events in the novel.”

Discuss this view of Tom Joad with reference to at least one key character and one key event in the novel. Support your answer with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) How do you respond to the way that Steinbeck presents the contrast between greed and cooperation in *The Grapes of Wrath*?

Support your answer with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

E THE BLACKWATER LIGHTSHIP - Colm Tóibín

- (i) “In *The Blackwater Lightship*, family is presented as a complex mixture of blessing and curse.”

Write your response to this statement supporting your answer with suitable reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “Tóibín charts changing relationships with great skill.”

Discuss this statement in relation to *The Blackwater Lightship*, supporting your answer with suitable reference to the text.

SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from **either** A – General Vision and Viewpoint **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 writing, and film. The questions use the word **author** to refer to novelists, playwrights, writers in all genres, and film-directors.

A GENERAL VISION AND VIEWPOINT

1. “The general vision and viewpoint of a text can be determined by the success or failure of a central character in his/her efforts to achieve fulfilment.”

In the light of the above statement, compare the general vision and viewpoint in **at least two texts** you have studied in your comparative course. (70)

OR

2. (a) How did you come to your understanding of the general vision and viewpoint in **any one** of the texts you read as part of your comparative course? (30)
- (b) Write a comparison between **two other texts** on your course in the light of your understanding of the general vision and viewpoint in those texts. (40)

B LITERARY GENRE

1. “The unexpected is essential to the craft of story-telling.”

Compare how the authors of the comparative texts you have studied used the unexpected in their texts. You may confine your answer to key moments in the texts.

(70)

OR

2. “Aspects of narrative contribute to your response to a text.”

(a) With reference to **one** of your chosen texts, identify at least two aspects of narrative and discuss how those aspects contributed to your response to that text.

(30)

(b) With reference to **two other texts** compare how aspects of narrative contributed to your response to these texts.
In answer to question (b) you may use the aspects of narrative discussed in (a) above or any other aspects of narrative.

(40)

SECTION III
POETRY (70 marks)

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

A UNSEEN POEM (20 marks)

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

Seed

The first warm day of spring
and I step out into the garden from the gloom
of a house where hope had died
to tally the storm damage, to seek what may
have survived. And finding some forgotten
lupins I'd sown from seed last autumn
holding in their fingers a raindrop each
like a peace offering, or a promise,
I am suddenly grateful and would
offer a prayer if I believed in God.
But not believing, I bless the power of seed,
its casual, useless persistence,
and bless the power of sun,
its conspiracy with the underground,
and thank my stars the winter's ended.

Paula Meehan

1. (a) What in your view is the mood of this poem? Explain briefly how it is conveyed. Make reference to the text in support of your answer. (10)
- (b) Choose one image from the poem that appealed to you. Explain your choice. (10)

OR

2. Write a personal response to this poem, highlighting the impact it makes on you. Your answer should make close reference to the text. (20)

B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

1. William Butler Yeats

“Yeats's poetry is driven by a tension between the real world in which he lives and an ideal world that he imagines.”

Write a response to the poetry of W.B. Yeats in the light of this statement, supporting your points with suitable reference to the poems on your course.

2. Adrienne Rich

“Adrienne Rich explores the twin themes of power and powerlessness in a variety of interesting ways.”

Write a response to the poetry of Adrienne Rich in the light of this statement, supporting your points with suitable reference to the poems on your course.

3. Patrick Kavanagh

In your opinion, is Kavanagh successful in achieving his desire to transform the ordinary world into something extraordinary?

Support your answer with suitable reference to the poems on your course.

4. T. S. Eliot

“The poetry of T.S. Eliot often presents us with troubled characters in a disturbing world.”

Write a response to this statement with reference to both the style and the subject matter of Eliot’s poetry. Support your points with suitable reference to the poems on your course.

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