



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2005

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 8 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
- The questions on **ONE** of the Prescribed Poems from SECTION III – Poetry

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SECTION I

THE SINGLE TEXT (60 MARKS)

Candidates must answer on **ONE** text (A – I).

A **WUTHERING HEIGHTS** – Emily Brontë

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) How would you describe the relationship between Catherine Earnshaw and Edgar Linton, the man she marries? Support your answer by reference to the text. (10)
 - (b) How is her relationship with Edgar different from her relationship with Heathcliff? Refer to the novel in your answer. (10)
 - (c) From your reading of the story, *Wuthering Heights*, do you find Catherine Earnshaw to be a likeable person? Explain your view. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) At one stage in the novel, Catherine warns Isabella Linton that Heathcliff would ‘*crush her like a sparrow’s egg.*’
What is your view of the way Heathcliff treats Isabella? Support the points you make with reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) Which of the two homes in the novel, *Wuthering Heights* or *Thrushcross Grange*, would appeal to you more as a place to live in? Give reasons for your answer supporting them by reference to the text.

OR

- (iii) “The novel, *Wuthering Heights*, is so full of hardship, injustice and cruelty that it is not suitable material for study by young people in schools.”

Imagine that you have read a letter in a newspaper containing the above statement. Write the reply you would make to it. Support the points you make by reference to the novel.

B **SILAS MARNER** – George Eliot

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Why did Silas Marner leave the community in Lantern Yard? (10)
- (b) Briefly describe the events on New Year’s Eve that brought Eppie into the cottage of Silas Marner in Raveloe. (10)

B (Continued)

- (c) How does the arrival of Eppie change Silas Marner's life? Support your answer by reference to the text. (10)

2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) Imagine that you are Godfrey Cass, father of Eppie, and that you have kept a diary of the events of the story. Write Godfrey's diary entry for the day of Eppie's wedding, the final event in the story.

OR

- (ii) "The novel, *Silas Marner*, shows us that to be loved is better than to be wealthy."
Write a short speech that you would give to your classmates on the above topic. Refer to the novel in your speech.

OR

- (iii) Imagine that you have worked as a servant in The Red House, the home of the wealthy Cass family. Write a letter home to your parents telling them what life is like there. Support your points by reference to the novel.

C HOME BEFORE NIGHT – Hugh Leonard

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Give a brief description of an incident in *Home Before Night* that you found enjoyable and say why you found it so. Refer to the text to support your answer. (10)
- (b) From your reading of *Home Before Night*, how did Hugh Leonard feel about attending secondary school? Refer to the text in support of your answer. (10)
2. Describe one important difference between the way of life as described in *Home Before Night* and life in Ireland today. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) Many memorable characters (mother, 'da', aunts, uncles, family members, neighbours, friends, etc.) are portrayed in *Home Before Night*. Which one of the characters did you find most memorable? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

C (Continued)

OR

- (ii) “The novel, *Home Before Night*, shows us that family is important in all our lives.”
Write a short speech that you would make to your classmates on the above topic. Refer to the novel in your speech.

OR

- (iii) The editor of a magazine, whose purpose is to encourage young people to read, has asked you to recommend a book to its young audience. You decide that your choice will be *Home Before Night*. Write the review that you think will sell *Home Before Night* to the magazine’s young readers. Refer to the text to support your views.

D **FLY AWAY PETER** – David Malouf

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) How do we know that Jim Saddler was a lover of nature? Refer to the novel in your answer. (10)
- (b) Do you think he makes the right decision when he joins the army? Explain your answer. (10)
- (c) Do you think the writer gives good descriptions of what war was like? Give one example to support your view. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) Imagine that Jim’s friends, Ashley Crowther and Imogen Harcourt, were asked to write a speech to be read at Jim’s funeral. Write the speech that one of these friends might give.

OR

- (ii) Imagine Jim’s diary was found on the battlefield after he was killed. It contained some entries giving his feelings about the war. Write one entry he might have written.

OR

- (iii) “We have great sympathy for Jim.”
Write a response to this statement supporting it by reference to the novel.

E AMONGST WOMEN – John McGahern

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Did you like or dislike the character of Moran in the novel, *Amongst Women*? Give a reason for your view. (10)
 - (b) Do you think that Rose was happy or unhappy in her marriage to Moran? Explain your answer. (10)
 - (c) In your opinion which of the Moran children coped best with life in their home at Great Meadow? Explain your answer. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) Imagine you were a guest at the wedding of Moran and Rose. How would you describe the event to a close friend who asked you what it was like?
OR
 - (ii) Do you think you would enjoy spending a summer weekend with the Morans at Great Meadow? Explain your answer.
OR
 - (iii) “The novel, *Amongst Women*, gives us a depressing view of life.” What is your opinion of this statement about the novel and its characters? Explain your view.

F JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK – Sean O’Casey

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe life in the Boyle household during Act I of *Juno and the Paycock*, before they got word of the will that was to make them rich. (10)
 - (b) How does the promise of the money change their way of life? Support your answer by reference to the text. (10)
 - (c) “Juno is the character that we admire most in *Juno and the Paycock*.” Would you agree with this view? Support your answer by brief reference to the play. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) Imagine that you had tickets for a performance of the play, *Juno and the Paycock*. Explain which part of the play you were most looking forward to seeing acted and say why. Support your answer with references to the text.
OR
 - (ii) Charles Bentham deserts Mary Boyle after she becomes pregnant. Write the letter Juno, Mary’s mother, would send to him when the baby is born.
OR
 - (iii) “Captain Boyle and Joxer make us laugh, but there is more sadness than fun in their lives.”
Write a response to this description of Boyle and Joxer supporting your points by reference to the play.

G HAMLET – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) What does Hamlet learn about his uncle Claudius when the Ghost speaks to him at the start of the play? (10)
- (b) Do you think that Hamlet treats his mother, Gertrude, fairly? Give one example to support your opinion. (10)
- (c) With whom did you have the greater sympathy, Claudius or Hamlet? Give a reason for your opinion. (10)

2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) Hamlet's father told him to take revenge on Claudius for his murder. Which of the following statements is closest to your view of how he carried out the revenge?
 - *I think Hamlet did his best*
 - *I think Hamlet took too long*
 - *I think Hamlet failed*Explain your view, supporting your answer by reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) The play, *Hamlet*, has many exciting scenes. Briefly describe one scene that had a strong effect on you and explain why it had such an effect.

OR

- (iii) Imagine that you are Ophelia. Write a letter to your brother, Laertes, telling him about the way Hamlet treats you and how you feel about the situation. Refer to events from the play in your answer.

H AS YOU LIKE IT – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) "Orlando is a man of many qualities."
From your experience of the play, what is the most important quality in Orlando's character? Refer to the play in support of your answer. (10)
- (b) Which of the characters, Rosalind or Celia, would you prefer to know? Explain your answer. (10)
- (c) Which would you prefer, life in the Forest of Arden or life in the city? Give a reason for your answer. (10)

H (Continued)

2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) “At the end of *As You Like It*, and after many mistakes, many couples eventually get married.”
Choose a couple whose growing relationship you enjoyed following. Show how the relationship develops through the course of the play.
Refer to the play to support the points you make.

OR

- (ii) Imagine that you could write to William Shakespeare. Write a letter in which you tell him your opinion of the play and its relevance to young people of today. Refer to the play in your answer.

OR

- (iii) *As You Like It* is a comedy. Briefly describe any one incident or scene that you found humorous. Explain why you chose this incident or scene supporting your answer by reference to the play.

I OF MICE AND MEN – John Steinbeck

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the dream of a place of their own, which is shared by George and Lennie. (10)
- (b) Give a brief description of events in the barn when Curley’s wife is killed by Lennie. (10)
- (c) How did the death of Curley’s wife affect the future for George and Lennie? (10)

2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) The editor of a magazine, whose purpose is to encourage young people to read, has asked you to recommend a book to its young audience. You decide that your choice will be *Of Mice and Men*. Write a review that you think will sell *Of Mice and Men* to the magazine’s young readers. Refer to the novel to support your views.

OR

- (ii) Imagine that George was arrested for killing Lennie. You have been appointed as his lawyer to defend him at his trial.
Write the speech that you would make to the jury to persuade them that he is not guilty of murder. Refer to the novel to support the points that you make.

OR

- (iii) It is obvious that Curley and his wife do not get on. Write the advice a counsellor might give to Curley in order to improve the relationship.
Refer to the novel in your answer.



SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

Candidates must answer **ONE** question from **either A – Relationships, or B – Social Setting**.

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 genres, and film-directors.

A RELATIONSHIPS

1.
 - (a) Name a text that you have studied for your comparative course. Give a brief description of **one** relationship in the text, that you feel is interesting. (30)
 - (b) Compare the relationship that you have already described in part (a) above with a relationship from another text. Refer to each text to support the points that you are making. (40)

OR

2.
 - (a) “Relationships can fail as well as succeed.”

From one of the texts that you studied for your comparative course, describe a relationship that, in your view, was either a success or a failure. Explain your answer. (30)
 - (b) Compare a relationship from a second text you have studied in your comparative course with the relationship you have chosen in (a) above. In the course of your answer, you must deal with **both** relationships. Support your answer by references to the texts. (40)

B SOCIAL SETTING

1. (a) “The places we read about in texts can be places that we ourselves would like to live in or not like to live in.”

Describe the social setting in one of the texts in your comparative course and show how it appeals or does not appeal to you. (30)

- (b) Compare the social setting in a second text from your comparative course with the social setting in the text you chose for your answer to part (a) above. Refer to each text to support the points you are making. (40)

OR

2. (a) “A character in any text can be made happy or unhappy by his or her social setting.”

Name one text you have studied for your comparative course and describe how the social setting caused one character to be happy or unhappy. (30)

- (b) Compare the social setting in a different text from your comparative course with the social setting of the text you have used in part (a) above. Refer to each text to support the points you are making. (40)



SECTION III

POETRY (70 MARKS)

Candidates must answer the questions on the Unseen Poem **and** the questions on **one** of the Prescribed Poems – A, B, C, D.

UNSEEN POEM (20 marks)

Read this poem at least twice and then respond to the questions that follow.

The Scottish poet, Douglas Dunn, writes a poem in which he explores his feelings about a family leaving their home in the city.

A REMOVAL FROM TERRY STREET

On a squeaking cart, they push the usual stuff,
A mattress, bed ends, cups, carpets, chairs,
Four paperback westerns. Two whistling youths
In surplus US Army battle-jackets
Remove their sister's goods. Her husband
Follows, carrying on his shoulders the son
Whose mischief we are glad to see removed,
And pushing, of all things, a lawnmower.
There is no grass in Terry Street. The worms
Come up cracks in concrete yards in moonlight.
That man, I wish him well. I wish him grass.

1. What kind of world is being described in this poem? Refer to the poem in your answer. (10)
2. How, in your opinion, does the writer feel about the family that is leaving Terry Street? Refer to the text of the poem in your answer. (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

You must answer on **ONE** of the following poems: (A - D)

A SHANCODUFF

My black hills have never seen the sun rising,
Eternally they look north towards Armagh.
Lot's wife would not be salt if she had been
Incurious as my black hills that are happy
When dawn whitens Glassdrummond chapel.

My hills hoard the bright shillings of March
While the sun searches in every pocket.
They are my Alps and I have climbed the Matterhorn
With a sheaf of hay for three perishing calves
In the field under the Big Forth of Rocksavage.

The sleety winds fondle the rushy beards of Shancoduff
While the cattle-drovers sheltering in the Featherna Bush
Look up and say: 'Who owns them hungry hills
That the water-hen and snipe must have forsaken?
A poet? Then by heavens he must be poor.'
I hear and is my heart not badly shaken?

Patrick Kavanagh.

1. (a) How does the poet show that he likes Shancoduff, his home place?
Support your answer by reference to the poem. (10)
- (b) Where in the poem does he show that life in Shancoduff can be harsh?
Support your answer by reference to the poem. (10)
- (c) On balance, do you think that Shancoduff would be a likeable or a harsh
place to live in? Give a reason for your answer. (10)

2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]

- (i) Imagine Patrick Kavanagh puts his farm up for sale. Write the advertisement that might appear in the local newspaper. Base your advertisement on the poem.

OR

- (ii) "They are my Alps and I have climbed the Matterhorn..."
Why, in your opinion, does Kavanagh refer to the Alps and the Matterhorn in this poem?

OR

- (iii) What do you think is the cattle-drovers' view of Kavanagh's way of life?
Refer to the poem in your answer.



B PIANO

Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me;
Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see
A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the tingling strings
And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother who smiles as she sings.

In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song
Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to belong
To the old Sunday evenings at home, with winter outside
And hymns in the cosy parlour, the tinkling piano our guide.

So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamour
With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour
Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast
Down in the flood of remembrance. I weep like a child for the past.

D.H. Lawrence

1. (a) What effect does the woman singing to the poet have on him? (10)
- (b) Choose one phrase from the poem that brings to life the picture of “the old Sunday evenings at home.” Explain your choice. (10)
- (c) Which one of the following phrases is closest to your understanding of the way the poet feels when he thinks back to childhood?
- *it makes him very sad*
 - *he wishes he could be a child again*
 - *he is embarrassed by his childhood memories*
- Give a reason for your answer. (10)

2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]

- (i) In your opinion, is this a happy or a sad poem? Refer to the poem in your answer.

OR

- (ii) You want to make a short film of this poem. Describe the sort of atmosphere you would like to create, and say what music, sound effects and images you would use.

OR

- (iii) Imagine that the poet sends this poem to his mother. What do you think she would want to say to him about the poem he has written?

LAST REQUESTS

I

Your batman thought you were buried alive,
 Left you for dead and stole your pocket watch
 And cigarette case, all he could salvage
 From the grave you so nearly had to share
 With an unexploded shell. But your lungs
 Surfaced to take a long remembered drag,
 Heart contradicting as an epitaph
 The two initials you had scratched on gold.

II

I thought you blew a kiss before you died,
 But the bony fingers that waved to and fro
 Were asking for a Woodbine, the last request
 Of many soldiers in your company,
 The brand you chose to smoke for forty years
 Thoughtfully, each one like a sacrament.
 I who brought peppermints and grapes only
 Couldn't reach you through the oxygen tent.
Michael Longley.

1. (a) How in this poem does Michael Longley feel about his dying father?
 Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- (b) Here are some phrases that might describe the poet's father:
- *he has great courage*
 - *he is a war hero*
 - *he has a sense of humour*
- Explain which one is closest to your impression of him. (10)
- (c) What picture of the life of a soldier do you get from this poem?
 Refer to the poem to support your answer. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
- (i) Do you think *Last Requests* is a good title for this poem? Explain your view.

OR

- (ii) One reader said of this poem, '*The great appeal of the poem for me is the carefully observed details.*'

Choose **two** details that make the poem appeal to you as a reader. Explain why you chose them and say how they helped you to enjoy the poem.

OR

- (iii) Imagine Michael Longley writes a short tribute to his father to be carved on his tombstone. Suggest what he would write and explain your suggestion.

D WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?

- 1) Did the people of Viet Nam use lanterns of stone?
- 2) Did they hold ceremonies to reverence the opening of buds?
- 3) Were they inclined to quiet laughter?
- 4) Did they use bone and ivory, jade and silver, for ornament?
- 5) Had they an epic poem?
- 6) Did they distinguish between speech and singing?

- 1) Sir, their light hearts turned to stone.
It is not remembered whether in gardens
stone lanterns illumined pleasant ways.
- 2) Perhaps they gathered once to delight in blossom,
but after the children were killed
there were no more buds.
- 3) Sir, laughter is bitter to the burned mouth.
- 4) A dream ago, perhaps. Ornament is for joy.
All the bones were charred.
- 5) It is not remembered. Remember,
most were peasants; their life
was in rice and bamboo.
When peaceful clouds were reflected in the paddies
and the water buffalo stepped surely along terraces,
maybe fathers told their sons old tales.
When bombs smashed those mirrors
there was time only to scream.
- 6) There is an echo yet, it is said,
of their speech which was like a song.
It is reported their singing resembled
the flight of moths in moonlight.
Who can say? It is silent now.

Denise Levertov.

1. (a) What impression does the poet give us of the people of Viet Nam?
Refer to the poem in your answer. (10)
- (b) From the 6 answers given in the second part of the poem, choose an answer that for you creates the clearest picture of the horrors of war. Explain your choice. (10)
- (c) Did you like this poem? Give a reason for your answer. (10)

2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]

- (i) The shape of this poem is unusual – a set of questions followed by a set of answers.
Do you think it is a good way to write the poem? Explain your answer.

OR

- (ii) Imagine you were asked to make an anti-war video in which this poem is spoken.
Describe the music and images you would use as a background to the reading of the poem.

OR

- (iii) Do you think the title of the poem, *What Were They Like?*, is a good one?
Explain your view.

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