



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2009

English – Ordinary Level – Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Time – 3 hours 20 minutes

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 CAT'S EYE – Margaret Atwood

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Based on your reading of the novel, describe the relationship between Elaine Risley and Mrs Smeath. (10)
- (b) What kind of character was Elaine's brother, Stephen? Support your view by reference to the novel. (10)
- (c) Describe briefly **one** event from *Cat's Eye* that you thought was particularly memorable, and explain why you found it to be so. (10)

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

- (i) "Cordelia is a fascinating character." Do you agree with this view of her? Support your answer by reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) "What if..."
Suggest **one** change you would make to the storyline of *Cat's Eye*. Describe what you think would happen as a result of that change.

OR

- (iii) You have been asked to talk to Fifth Year students about the novel you have studied for your Leaving Certificate. Write out the short talk you would give them on *Cat's Eye*.

B REGENERATION – Pat Barker

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) In your own words, outline Siegfried Sassoon's attitude to the war. (10)
- (b) Which character did you admire most in *Regeneration*? Explain your choice by reference to the novel. (10)

B (Continued)

- (c) What do you think is the saddest moment in the novel? Briefly describe what happens and explain why it is so sad. (10)

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

- (i) What is your opinion of Dr. Yealland and the methods he uses to treat his patients? Explain your view by reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Have your views on war changed in any way as a result of reading *Regeneration*? Explain why or why not, referring to the text in support of the points you make.

OR

- (iii) Imagine that you are a nurse working in Craiglockhart. Write a letter home, describing what day-to-day life is like for the patients in the psychiatric hospital.

C **CIRCLE OF FRIENDS** – Maeve Binchy

Answer **all** of the questions.

- 1.** (a) Describe what happens when Eve visits Simon Westward to ask for money to help pay for her college fees. (10)
- (b) Select one scene or moment in the novel that made you feel particularly sympathetic towards Benny. Briefly describe the scene, and explain your response to it. (10)
- (c) “Jack Foley is a very selfish character.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

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

- (i) Choose **one** of the following issues that *Circle of Friends* made you think about:

- *Friendship*
- *Women’s rights*
- *Disappointment*

Explain how this issue affected **one** character in the story.

OR

- (ii) If you were asked to play the part of one of the characters from *Circle of Friends* in a new film adaptation of the novel, which character would you choose? Explain your choice by reference to the novel.

OR

- (iii) Based on your reading of *Circle of Friends*, do you think that Maeve Binchy is a good story-teller? Give reasons for your opinion.



D JANE EYRE – Charlotte Brontë

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe what happened to Jane when she was locked in the Red Room. (10)
 - (b) Based on your knowledge of the novel, describe the type of person you imagine Mrs Reed to be. (10)
 - (c) Did you like or dislike the character of Helen Burns? Explain your view. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) “As a novel, *Jane Eyre* presents readers with a very negative and depressing view of life.”
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer, supporting them by reference to the text.
OR
 - (ii) Imagine that Jane was teaching you in Thornfield Hall.
Write a letter to one of your friends in which you describe your impressions of Jane.
OR
 - (iii) “All the male characters in *Jane Eyre* are selfish and cold-hearted.” Discuss this view with reference to at least **one** of the male characters in the novel.

E SPIES – Michael Frayn

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Why do Stephen and Keith suspect that Mrs. Hayward (Keith’s mother) is a German spy? Refer to the novel in your answer. (10)
- (b) Do you agree that Keith is a very unpleasant boy? Explain your answer by reference to the novel. (10)
- (c) Did the ending of *Spies* surprise you? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

E (Continued)

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

- (i) From the following statements, choose **one** which in your opinion best describes the story. Give reasons for your choice:
- *It is a story about childhood*
 - *It is a story about war*
 - *It is a story about growing up*

OR

- (ii) “Dear Michael...”
Write a letter to Michael Frayn in which you tell him what you thought of *Spies*. Support the points you make by reference to the novel.

OR

- (iii) In your opinion, would *Spies* make a good film? Refer to the novel in support of your answer.

F **PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME!** – Brian Friel

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe what happened during the visit of the Americans (Aunt Lizzy, Uncle Con and Ben Burton) to the O’Donnell household. (10)
- (b) In your opinion, was Gar a good son to S.B. O’Donnell? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (c) What do you think is the most amusing scene in the play? Describe what happens and explain what made the scene so amusing. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) “Lack of communication is the main problem for the characters in *Philadelphia, Here I Come!*”. Do you agree?
In your answer, you should refer to **one or more** of the characters in the play.

OR

- (ii) Imagine you are Madge, the housekeeper in the O’Donnell home. Write the letter you would send to Gar a week after he left for Philadelphia. You should refer to characters and/or events from the play in your letter.

OR

- (iii) “Gar’s friends, the Boys, are more to be pitied than laughed at.”
Do you agree with this view of Tom, Ned and Joe? Support your answer by reference to the play.



G THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

– Mark Haddon

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the scene early in the novel when Christopher is arrested and brought to the police station. (10)
 - (b) Do you like or dislike Christopher's mother, Judy Boone? Explain your answer. (10)
 - (c) What kind of a relationship does Christopher have with Siobhan, his teacher at school? Refer to the novel in your answer. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) Imagine that Christopher's father, Ed Boone, kept a diary. Write the diary entry Ed Boone might have written after Christopher discovered the hidden letters from his mother. Support your answer with reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) What do you think is the most important lesson about life that can be learned from *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*? Refer to the novel in your answer.

OR

- (iii) From your reading of the novel, would you like to have had Christopher as a friend? Give reasons for your answer.

H THE CRUCIBLE – Arthur Miller

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Why is Reverend Parris so upset and angry at the beginning of the play? (10)
 - (b) In your view, was Elizabeth Proctor a good wife to John Proctor? Explain your answer, by reference to the play. (10)
 - (c) Which scene in the play is the most dramatic and memorable, in your opinion? Give reasons for your answer by reference to the text. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) "Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*, is so cruel that it is unsuitable for study by Leaving Certificate students."
Discuss this view, referring to events from the play in your answer.

OR

H (Continued)

- (ii) This play is set in Salem in 1692. Would you like to have lived there at that time? Support the points you make by reference to the play.

OR

- (iii) “Abigail Williams is the real villain of Miller’s play, *The Crucible*.” Write your response to this statement, supporting your answer by reference to the text.

I **MACBETH** – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe what happens when Macbeth and Banquo first meet the witches in the early part of the play. (10)
- (b) Did you feel sympathy for Lady Macbeth at any time during the play? Give reasons for your answer, based on your knowledge of the text. (10)
- (c) From the following statements, choose **one** which in, your opinion, best describes what the play is about. Give reasons for your choice.
- *It is a play about power*
- *It is a play about evil*
- *It is a play about love* (10)

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

- (i) What is your opinion of the actions and behaviour of Macduff throughout the play, *Macbeth*? Support the points you make by reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) *Macbeth* continues to be one of the most performed and popular of Shakespeare’s plays. Do you think it deserves to remain so popular today? Give reasons for your answer by referring to your own experience of studying and/or watching the play in performance.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you were asked to direct a new film based on Shakespeare’s play, *Macbeth*. Which two actors would you cast in the main roles of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth? Explain your choices with reference to the play.



SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

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

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 SOCIAL SETTING

1.
 - (a) Write a paragraph in which you outline what you liked (**or** disliked) about the social setting in **one** text from your comparative course. (30)
 - (b) Compare the social setting in the text you have described in part (a) above with the social setting in another text you have studied. (40)

OR

2. Imagine that you, as a reader, could visit the world or social setting of the comparative texts you have studied.
 - (a) Describe what you found interesting about the social setting in **one** text. (30)
 - (b) Explain how the social setting in the second text is more (**or** less) interesting than the one already described in (a) above. (40)

B THEME

Before beginning your answer to either of the two questions on THEME, you should name a theme that you are going to discuss.

1. You have been asked to talk to your class about the theme of the comparative texts you have studied.

(a) Describe **one** key moment in the text where the theme is clearly evident. (30)

(b) Compare the moment described in *(a)* above with a moment in another text where **the same theme** is also clearly shown. (40)

OR

2. *(a)* Choose a theme from **one** of the texts on your comparative course and say why it did (**or** did not) make the text entertaining. (30)

(b) Choose the **same theme** from another text and say why it made that text more (**or** less) entertaining than the one discussed in *(a)* above. (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)

In this poem, the writer Robert Hershon, tells of a moment in a restaurant with his adult son.

Read the poem at least twice and answer the questions following it.

SENTIMENTAL MOMENT

Don't fill up on bread
I say absent-mindedly
The servings here are huge

My son, whose hair may be
receding a bit, says
Did you really just
say that to me?

What he doesn't know
is that when we're walking
together, when we get
to the curb*
I sometimes start to reach
for his hand.

** edge of the street*

1. (a) What impression does this poem give you of the way the father feels towards his son? (4)
- (b) What words or phrases from the poem give you this impression? (6)
2. The writer chose the title *Sentimental Moment* for this poem. In your view, what other title might he have chosen? Explain your choice by referring to the text of the poem. (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A AT GRASS

The eye can hardly pick them out
From the cold shade they shelter in,
Till wind distresses tail and mane;
Then one crops grass, and moves about
– The other seeming to look on –
And stands anonymous again.

Yet fifteen years ago, perhaps
Two dozen distances sufficed
To fable them: faint afternoons
Of Cups and Stakes and Handicaps,
Whereby their names were artificed
To inlay faded, classic Junes –

Silks at the start: against the sky
Numbers and parasols: outside,
Squadrons of empty cars, and heat,
And littered grass: then the long cry
Hanging unhusht till it subside
To stop-press columns on the street.

Do memories plague their ears like flies?
They shake their heads. Dusk brims the shadows.
Summer by summer all stole away,
The starting-gates, the crowds and cries –
All but the unmolesting meadows.
Almanacked, their names live; they

Have slipped their names, and stand at ease,
Or gallop for what must be joy,
And not a fieldglass sees them home,
Or curious stop-watch prophecies:
Only the grooms, and the groom's boy,
With bridles in the evening come.

Philip Larkin

1. (a) What are the poet's first impressions of the retired racehorses? Refer to the first stanza in support of your answer. (10)
- (b) What kind of lives did the racehorses live fifteen years ago? Support your answer by reference to the poem. (10)

(Continued)

- (c) Choose one phrase or line from the poem that you find particularly appealing. Explain your choice. (10)

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

- (i) How does Larkin convey the world of the racecourse in the third stanza? Refer to the text in your answer.

OR

- (ii) The following statements suggest Philip Larkin's attitude to the racehorses:
- *He admires them*
 - *He feels sorry for them*
 - *He is fascinated by them*

Choose **one** statement from the above list that is closest to your own understanding of the poem. Explain your choice, supporting your answer by reference to the text.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are to make a video of *At Grass* to show to your Leaving Certificate class. What visual and/or sound effects would you use in the production? Explain your choices by reference to the poem.

B ON PASSING THE NEW MENIN GATE

Who will remember, passing through this Gate,
The unheroic Dead who fed the guns?
Who shall absolve the foulness of their fate –
Those doomed, conscripted, unvictorious ones?
Crudely renewed, the Salient holds its own.
Paid are its dim defenders by this pomp;
Paid with a pile of peace complacent stone,
The armies who endured that sullen swamp.

Here was the world's worst wound. And here with pride
'Their name liveth for ever', the Gateway claims.
Was ever an immolation so belied
As these intolerably nameless names?
Well might the Dead who struggled in the slime
Rise and deride this sepulchre of crime.

Siegfried Sasson

1. (a) What, in your opinion, is the poet's attitude towards the monument commemorating the dead?
Support your answer by reference to the poem. (10)
- (b) Why, in your view, does Sassoon describe the war dead as *unheroic* and *unvictorious*?
Support your answer by reference to the poem. (10)
- (c) What words and phrases in this poem, in your opinion, best convey the awful experiences of the soldiers in the First World War?
Explain your answer. (10)

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

(i) From your understanding of the poem, write a piece where you argue that Sassoon is either:

- proud of the men who died

or

- angry at the massive waste of life

Support your answer by reference to the poem.

OR

(ii) On the gate is written, "*Their name liveth for ever*".

Imagine you are a relative of one of the war-dead. Based on your reading of the poem, write a piece in which you explain the kind of memorial that would best commemorate your relative and his fellow soldiers.

OR

(iii) You are to make a video in which this poem is spoken. Describe the sound effects, music, images, etc. you would use to illustrate the reading of the poem.

C FILLING STATION

Oh, but it is dirty!
– this little filling station,
oil soaked, oil-permeated
to a disturbing, over-all
black translucency.
Be careful with that match!

Father wears a dirty,
oil-soaked monkey suit
that cuts him under the arms,
and several quick and saucy
and greasy sons assist him
(it's a family filling station),
all quite thoroughly dirty.

Do they live in the station?
It has a cement porch
behind the pumps, and on it
a set of crushed and grease-
impregnated wickerwork;
on the wicker sofa
a dirty dog, quite comfy.

Some comic books provide
the only note of color –
of certain color. They lie
upon a big dim doily
draping a taboret
(part of the set), beside
a big hirsute begonia.

Why the extraneous plant?
Why the taboret?
Why, oh why, the doily?
(Embroidered in daisy stitch
with marguerites, I think,
and heavy with gray crochet.)

Somebody embroidered the doily.
Somebody waters the plant,
or oils it, maybe. Somebody
arranges the rows of cans
so that they softly say:
ESSO—SO—SO—SO
to high-strung automobiles.
Somebody loves us all.

Elizabeth Bishop

1. (a) What impression of the filling station and its inhabitants do you get from reading the first two stanzas of the poem? Refer to the text in support of your answer. (10)
- (b) “*Somebody loves us all.*”
In your opinion, does this line provide a good ending to the poem? Explain your answer. (10)
- (c) What impression of the poet, Elizabeth Bishop, do you get from reading this poem? (10)

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

- (i) “Good poetry creates vivid pictures in our minds.” In your opinion, is this true of *Filling Station*? Support your view by reference to the text of the poem.

OR

- (ii) Imagine you are Elizabeth Bishop. Write a diary entry, based on your reading of the poem, in which you describe your experience of stopping at this filling station.

OR

- (iii) Which of the following statements is closest to your own view of the poem:
- *Life is full of surprises*
 - *Everyone needs love*
 - *We shouldn't judge by appearances*

Explain your choice, supporting your answer by reference to the text.

D NAMING MY DAUGHTER

Beside my desk, I had pinned
A list of possible names for my unborn child,
Adding to it at intervals
As the months swelled slowly on.

She was born without colour
Among the yellow daffodils
And the greening trees of a wet March.

I chose none of those names for my daughter.
I gave her instead
The Caribbean name of Rain:
Wanting something soft, familiar and constant
To touch and touch again
Her thin coverlet of earth.

Rosita Boland

1.
 - (a) How does the poet show that she is looking forward to the birth of her child? Support your answer by reference to the poem. (10)
 - (b) Write out **one** phrase or line from the poem that you find particularly appealing. Explain what you especially like about it. (10)
 - (c) Why did Rosita Boland choose the “Caribbean name of Rain” for her daughter? Support your view by reference to the poem. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Imagine you have been asked to suggest a poem for a new collection entitled *Family Love*. Explain why you would choose the poem, *Naming My Daughter*, as part of the collection.

OR
 - (ii) Which **one** of the following statements would best describe your view of the poem?
 - *It is a poem about love*
 - *It is a poem about disappointment*
 - *It is a poem about nature*Explain your choice using reference to the text.

OR
 - (iii) Write a short letter to the poet, Rosita Boland, telling her about how this poem made you feel. Refer to the text of the poem in your answer.

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