



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2011

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Thursday 9 June – 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
- **THE QUESTIONS** on the Unseen Poem from SECTION III – Poetry
- The questions on **ONE** of the Prescribed Poems from SECTION III – Poetry

INDEX OF SINGLE TEXTS

<i>Circle of Friends</i>	- Page 2
<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	- Page 2
<i>A Doll's House</i>	- Page 3
<i>How Many Miles to Babylon?</i>	- Page 4
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	- Page 4
<i>A Whistle in the Dark</i>	- Page 5
<i>The Plough and the Stars</i>	- Page 5
<i>Hamlet</i>	- Page 6
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	- Page 7

SECTION I

THE SINGLE TEXT (60 MARKS)

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

A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - Maeve Binchy

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) What circumstances caused Eve Malone to go to live in the convent with Mother Francis? (10)
- (b) Do you think Eve Malone is a good friend to Benny? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
2. What is your opinion of Sean Walsh? Explain your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) ‘Benny is a very sensible girl.’
Write a piece, based on this statement. You might refer to her decisions, her actions and her relationships with others, etc. in the course of the novel.
OR
 - (ii) Write an article about Maeve Binchy’s *Circle of Friends* for your school magazine in which you consider whether the novel is relevant to young people today.
OR
 - (iii) The novel is set in two places, Knockglen and Dublin. Which of the two places made the greater impression on you?
Give reasons for your choice based on your knowledge of the novel.

B WUTHERING HEIGHTS - Emily Brontë

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) What reasons for marrying Edgar Linton does Catherine Earnshaw give to Nelly Dean? (10)
- (b) Do you think that Catherine should have married Heathcliff? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
2. What is your opinion of Isabella Linton? Explain your answer. (10)

Question continues on Page 3

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

(i) 'Heathcliff is a very interesting man.'

Write a piece, based on this statement. You might refer to Heathcliff's character, his actions, his relationships and the attitude of other people towards him, etc.

Your response should be based on your understanding of the novel.

OR

(ii) Write an article about Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* for your school magazine in which you consider whether the novel is relevant to young people today.

OR

(iii) The novel is set in two places, Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange. Which of the two places made the greater impression on you? Give reasons for your choice based on your knowledge of the novel.

C A DOLL'S HOUSE - Henrik Ibsen

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Briefly describe Nora and Helmer's differing attitudes towards money at the beginning of the play. (10)

(b) Soon after Nora and Helmer's marriage, Helmer became very ill. Do you think Nora was right to raise the money in the way she did, in order to save her sick husband? Explain your answer. (10)

2. What is your opinion of Dr Rank? Explain your answer. (10)

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

(i) 'As the play progresses, Nora learns a lot about herself.' Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer based on your knowledge of the play.

OR

(ii) Write an article about Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* for your school magazine in which you consider whether the play is relevant to young people today.

OR

(iii) Write the letter Nora might send to Helmer, explaining why she has left him. The ideas you use should be based on the events of the play.



D HOW MANY MILES TO BABYLON? - Jennifer Johnston

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe an occasion, in the early part of the novel, which reveals the close friendship between Alec and Jerry. (10)
- (b) Do you think that the relationship between Alec and his mother was good or bad? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
2. What is your opinion of Frederick Moore, Alec's father? Explain your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) 'During the course of the novel Alec learns many bitter lessons: about people, social position, duty, friendship, etc.'
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer based on your reading of the novel.

OR

- (ii) Write an article about Jennifer Johnston's *How Many Miles to Babylon?* for your school magazine in which you consider whether the novel is relevant to young people today.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are Jerry and you have been condemned to death. Write a final letter to be sent to your mother.
You might write about your experiences in France, memories of your youth in Ireland, your friendship with Alec, your search for your father, your regrets, etc.

E THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES - Sue Monk Kidd

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe what happens between the white men and Rosaleen when she goes to register to vote in Sylvan. (10)
- (b) Who is your favourite Boatwright sister: May or June or August? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
2. What is your opinion of T. Ray, Lily's father? Explain your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) 'Lily is a very complicated character.'
What aspects of Lily's character do you like and what aspects do you dislike? Give reasons for your answer, based on your reading of the novel.

OR

- (ii) Write an article about Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret life of Bees* for your school magazine in which you consider whether the novel is relevant to young people today.

OR

- (iii) Write two diary entries Lily might write, one when living with her father, T. Ray, and one when she is with the Boatwright sisters.

F A WHISTLE IN THE DARK - Tom Murphy

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the humorous search that Harry engages in at the beginning of the play. (10)
- (b) Do you think Betty is a good wife to Michael? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
2. What is your opinion of Dada? Explain your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) ‘During the course of the play, Michael tries and fails to break with his past.’ Do you agree with this statement?
In your answer you might consider his attitude to violence, his family, his marriage, his values, etc. Support the points you make with reference to the play.

OR

 - (ii) Write an article about Tom Murphy’s *A Whistle in the Dark* for your school magazine in which you consider whether the play is relevant to young people today.

OR

 - (iii) ‘This play is too violent to be suitable for Leaving Certificate students.’ Based on your knowledge of the play, write a piece supporting or opposing this viewpoint.

G THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS - Sean O’Casey

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe what happens in Act I when Nora and Jack are alone after Peter and The Covey have gone out for the evening. (10)
- (b) Do you think that Jack was right to leave Nora and join Captain Brennan at the end of Act 1? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
2. What is your opinion of Uncle Peter? Explain your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Who is your favourite female character in this play? Give reasons for your answer based on your knowledge of the play.

OR

Question continues on Page 6



- (ii) Write an article about Sean O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars* for your school magazine in which you consider whether the play is relevant to young people today.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are a newspaper reporter. Write a piece in which you describe the shooting and looting taking place in Dublin during the Easter Rising. Your response should be based on information drawn from the play.

H HAMLET - William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Why does Claudius send Hamlet to England? Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) Do you think Laertes deserves to be killed by Hamlet at the end of the play? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
2. What is your opinion of Horatio? Explain your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) Relationships between parents and their children are at the centre of this play. Write a piece about **one** of the following relationships:
- the relationship between Gertrude and Hamlet
 - the relationship between Polonius and Ophelia.

OR

- (ii) Write an article about Shakespeare's *Hamlet* for your school magazine in which you consider whether the play is relevant to young people today.

OR

- (iii) Which character would you most like to play in your school's production of *Hamlet*? Give reasons for your answer based on your knowledge of the play.

I THE GRAPES OF WRATH - John Steinbeck

Answer **all** the questions.

1. (a) Why was Tom Joad sentenced to seven years in McAlester Prison? (10)
- (b) Why did Uncle John become such a silent and unhappy character? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
2. What is your opinion of Connie, Rose of Sharon's husband? Explain your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) 'In the course of the novel Ma becomes the real leader of the Joad family.' Write a piece in which you agree or disagree with this statement. Support the points you make with evidence from the novel.

OR

- (ii) Write an article about John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* for your school magazine in which you consider whether the novel is relevant to young people today.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are a Californian police officer. Write a report on the recently arrived migrants for your commanding officer. Your report should be drawn from your reading of the novel. In your report you might include some of the following: the appearance of the migrants, their trucks and possessions, their behavior, why they have travelled to California, where they have settled and how they are supporting themselves, etc.



SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

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

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. ‘Social setting has many aspects including the roles of men and women, race, religion, social class, etc.’
 - (a) Write about the aspect of social setting that you found most interesting in **one** of the three texts that you have studied as part of your comparative course. Explain why you found it to be so. (30)
 - (b) With reference to **at least one other text** that you have studied on your comparative course, compare and contrast the same aspect of social setting that you dealt with in 1.(a) above. Remember to refer to both texts in the course of your answer. (40)

OR

2. ‘Social setting affects the behaviour of characters in texts.’
 - (a)
 - (i) Using a key moment, show how a character was affected by his or her social setting in **one** of the three texts you have studied on your comparative course. (15)
 - (ii) Using a key moment from another text you have studied on your comparative course, show how a character from this text was affected by his or her social setting. (15)
 - (b) Compare and contrast the two social settings you have written about above. Remember to refer to both social settings in the course of your answer. (40)

B RELATIONSHIPS

1. 'A reader's interest is often captured by a difficult relationship in a text.'
- (a) Write about a difficult relationship in **one** of the three texts you have studied for your comparative course. Explain why this difficult relationship captured your interest. (30)
- (b) Write about a relationship from another text on your comparative course. Was this relationship, in your opinion, more **or** less difficult than the one you described in 1.(a) above? Explain your answer. (40)
Remember to refer to both relationships in the course of your answer.

OR

2. 'Significant changes in relationships between characters can be captured in key moments.'
- (a) (i) Use a key moment to illustrate a significant change that occurs in an important relationship in **one** of the three texts that you studied for your comparative course. (15)
- (ii) From a different text that you studied for your comparative course, use a key moment to illustrate a significant change that occurs in an important relationship in that text. (15)
- (b) Compare and contrast the two changed relationships that you have written about above. (40)
Remember to refer to both relationships in the course of your answer.



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 the following poem and the questions on it at least twice before writing your answers.

In this poem the poet, Ted Kooser, blurs memory and imagination when he writes about his grandmother's kitchen.

A Room in the Past

It's a kitchen. Its curtains fill
with a morning light so bright
you can't see beyond its windows
into the afternoon. A kitchen
falling through time with its things
in their places, the dishes jingling
up in the cupboard, the bucket
of drinking water rippled as if
a truck had just gone past, but that truck
was thirty years. No one's at home
in this room. Its counter is wiped,
and the dishrag hangs from its nail,
a dry leaf. In housedresses of mist,
blue aprons of rain, my grandmother
moved through this life like a ghost,
and when she had finished her years,
she put them all back in their places
and wiped out the sink, turning her back
on the rest of us, forever.

Ted Kooser



Answer any **two** of the following questions.

1. Select a line or phrase from this poem that you find appealing. Explain why you found it to be so. (10)

OR

2. Look at the picture that accompanies this poem. Do you think it is a suitable picture to illustrate this poem? Explain your answer. (10)

OR

3. In your opinion, is this mainly a happy poem or mainly a sad poem? Explain your answer by reference to the poem. (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A Lines 17 – 52 *from* A CHRISTMAS CHILDHOOD

My father played the melodeon
Outside at our gate;
There were stars in the morning east
And they danced to his music.

Across the wild bogs his melodeon called
To Lennons and Callans.
As I pulled on my trousers in a hurry
I knew some strange thing had happened.

Outside in the cow-house my mother
Made the music of milking;
The light of her stable-lamp was a star
And the frost of Bethlehem made it twinkle.

A water-hen screeched in the bog.
Mass-going feet
Crunched the wafer-ice on the pot-holes,
Somebody wistfully twisted the bellows wheel.

My child poet picked out the letters
On the grey stone,
In silver the wonder of a Christmas townland,
The winking glitter of a frosty dawn.

Cassiopeia was over
Cassidy's hanging hill,
I looked and three whin bushes rode across
The horizon – the Three Wise Kings.

An old man passing said:
'Can't he make it talk'-
The melodeon. I hid in the doorway
And tightened the belt of my box-pleated coat.

I nicked six nicks on the door-post
With my penknife's big blade-
There was a little one for cutting tobacco,
And I was six Christmases of age.

My father played the melodeon,
My mother milked the cows,
And I had a prayer like a white rose pinned
On the Virgin Mary's blouse.

Patrick Kavanagh



1. (a) From reading this poem, which one of Kavanagh's memories did you find most striking? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (10)



(b) In your opinion, what word or phrase best captures the atmosphere of wonder in this poem? Explain your choice. (10)

(c) From the phrases below, choose the one which, in your opinion, best describes this poem;

- It is a joyful poem
- It is a personal poem
- It is a poem of nostalgia (remembrance)

Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (10)

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

(i) Did the language used by the poet in this poem appeal to you? Explain your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

(ii) Would you include this poem in a collection of poetry for young people? Give reasons for your answer based on your reading of the poem.

OR

(iii) Kavanagh remembers childhood as a time of wonder in this poem. Write a piece in which you recall some of your own wonder-filled memories of childhood.

B ALL DAY LONG

At school we see
Ink spilt on the floor.
Children get bored
Counting, conjugating verbs...
All day long.

You never know
When some disappear
You never know
Where to find them.

Teachers are patient,
See with their eyes.
Children, not easily tamed,
See with their hearts,
And are made to sit in rows,
In blue and navy uniforms.



How can you know
When some disappear?
How can you know
Where to find them?

Principals, Deputy Principals,
Constantly counting the children,
Mornings and afternoons
Names and numbers put on files.

One never knows
When they go missing
One never knows
Where to find them.

Noel Monahan

1. (a) What relationship between pupils and teachers is conveyed in this poem?
Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
- (b) What do you think the poet means when he says:
*You never know
When some disappear...?*
Explain your answer. (10)
- (c) From the phrases below, choose the one which, in your opinion,
best captures the experience of school described in this poem;
 - School is a friendly place
 - School is a boring place
 - School is an organized place(10)

Question continues on page 14



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

- (i) Can you relate this poem to your own experiences of school?
Give reasons for your answer based on your reading of the poem.

OR

- (ii) Would you include this poem in a collection of poetry for young people?
Give reasons for your answer based on your reading of the poem.

OR

- (iii) Look at the picture that accompanies this poem and answer the following questions.
- Do you think this is a suitable picture to illustrate this poem?
Explain your answer.
 - Describe a second picture which you would choose to illustrate this poem.
Explain your choice.

I am the Lost Classmate
 being hunted down the superhighways
 and byways of infinite cyber-space.
 How long can I evade the class committee
 searching for my lost self?

I watch the list
 of Found Classmates
 grow by the month.
 Corralled into a hotel ballroom
 festooned with 70s paraphernalia,

bombarded with atmospheric
 hit tunes, the Captured Classmates
 from Sullivan High School
 will celebrate thirty years
 of freedom from each other.

I peek at the message board:
 my locker partner,
 out in California, looks forward
 to being united with
 her old school chums.

Wearing a disguise, I calculate
 the number of months left
 for me to do what I do best,
 what I've always done:
 slip through the net.

Julie O'Callaghan



1. (a) Do you think the speaker in this poem is looking forward to her school reunion? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
- (b) In your opinion, what word or phrase best captures the speaker's feelings in this poem? Explain your choice with reference to the poem. (10)
- (c) From the three phrases below, choose the one which, in your opinion, best describes this poem.
- This is mostly a humorous poem
 - This is mostly an unhappy poem
 - This is mostly a serious poem

Explain your choice with reference to the poem. (10)

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

- (i) Does the language used by the poet in this poem appeal to you? Explain your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (ii) Think about the title of this poem (The Net) and answer the following questions.
- What do you think the title means?
 - Suggest a different title for this poem. Explain your choice.

OR

- (iii) Do you think The Net is a poem that appeals to young people? Give reasons for your answer based on your reading of this poem.



D**SPRING**

Nothing is so beautiful as spring –

When weeds in wheels shoot long and lovely and lush:

Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush

Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring

The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing:

The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush

The descending blue: that blue is all in a rush

With richness: the racing lambs too have fair their fling.



What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning

In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,

Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning.

Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,

Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

1. (a) Choose the image from the first eight lines of the poem that, in your opinion, best captures the beauty of spring. Explain your answer. (10)
 - (b) Do you think Hopkins creates a sense of prayer in the last six lines of the poem? Refer to the poem in support of your answer. (10)
 - (c) From the phrases below, choose the one which, in your opinion, best describes this poem.
 - It is a joyful poem
 - It is a personal poem
 - It is a spiritual poem
 Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Write about **two** differences you notice between the first eight lines (octet) and the final six lines (sestet) of this poem. You should refer to the poem in your answer.

OR
 - (ii) In this poem Hopkins describes the beauty of spring. Write a piece in which you describe the beauty of a different season of the year.

OR
 - (iii) Write a piece explaining why you did, or did not enjoy studying the poetry of Hopkins on your course.
(The other poem by Hopkins on the Ordinary Level course is *Inversnaid*).

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