



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2006

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 7 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

INDEX OF SINGLE TEXTS

<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	- Page 2
<i>How Many Miles to Babylon?</i>	- Page 2
<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i>	- Page 3
<i>A Moment of War</i>	- Page 4
<i>Death and Nightingales</i>	- Page 4
<i>Juno and the Paycock</i>	- Page 5
<i>As You Like It</i>	- Page 6
<i>King Lear</i>	- Page 6
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	- Page 7

SECTION I

THE SINGLE TEXT (60 MARKS)

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

A **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** – Jane Austen

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Why, in your opinion, do Elizabeth and Mr Darcy appear to dislike each other in the early part of the novel *Pride and Prejudice*? Support your answer by reference to the text. (10)
- (b) At the end of the novel, Mr Darcy confesses to Elizabeth:
“...dearest, loveliest Elizabeth! What do I not owe to you! You taught me a lesson.”
What, in your view, is the most important lesson that Elizabeth teaches Mr Darcy during the story? Explain your answer by reference to the novel. (10)
2. Elizabeth turns down a proposal of marriage from Mr Collins, the man who will inherit her father’s estate. Why, in your view, does she reject him? Support your answer by reference to the novel. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) *Dear Ms Austen,*
Let me tell you what twenty-first century romances between girls and boys are like...
Using the above as your opening sentence, write a short letter to Jane Austen in which you explain how relationships between boys and girls in her time were different from those of today.

OR

- (ii) Describe an episode from the novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, which you found entertaining or amusing.

OR

- (iii) “Readers enjoy the character of Mrs Bennet, Elizabeth’s mother, but they would not want her to be their own mother.” Write a response to this view of Mrs Bennet. Support your points by reference to the text.

B **HOW MANY MILES TO BABYLON?** – Jennifer Johnston

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe what life is like for Alec living at home with his mother and father. Support your views with reference to the novel. (10)
- (b) “*We had great times.*”
What, in your view, are the great times Alec and Jerry had together? Explain your answer. (10)

B (Continued)

2. Do you understand why Alec shot Jerry? Explain your answer. (10)

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

(i) Imagine that Alicia, Alec's mother, kept a diary. Write the diary entry she might have written on the day Alec went away to enlist in the army.

OR

(ii) In the beginning of the novel, Alec says –

“I love no living person.”

From your reading of the novel, do you think that this is true?
Explain your answer with reference to the text.

OR

(iii) *“It is every young man's duty to fight for his country.”*

Based on your reading of the novel, write out the speech that you would make in response to this statement.

C THE POISONWOOD BIBLE – Barbara Kingsolver

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) From the following statements choose the **one** that in your view best describes Nathan Price:

- *he was a heartless father*
- *he was a dedicated missionary*
- *he was a confused man*

Explain your choice by reference to the novel. (10)

(b) Choose an amusing incident from the story. Give a brief description of it and say what it was about it that you found amusing. (10)

2. One reader said of this book:

“Barbara Kingsolver's book is full of descriptions of life in the Congo.”

Choose one of these descriptions and write a short account of it. (10)

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

(i) *“Mother has nagged us to write letters home to our classmates at Bethlehem High, and not one of us has done it yet”.*

Based on your reading of the novel, write the letter that any one of the children might write to their friends in America telling them what their life is like in the Congo.

OR

(ii) You have been asked to persuade a group of teenagers in the local Youth Club about the joys of reading. You decide to use *The Poisonwood Bible* as your example. Write out what you would say to them.

C (Continued)

OR

- (iii) Adah, Leah, Rachel and Ruth May all tell us their versions of the family's experiences. From what you learn of them in the story, which of the four girls would you like to have as a friend? Explain your choice.

D A MOMENT OF WAR – Laurie Lee

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Give a brief description of a time when the author found himself in a dangerous situation. Explain why it was dangerous. (10)
- (b) Would you describe Laurie Lee and his soldier comrades as heroes of the war in Spain?
Explain your view with reference to the novel. (10)
- (c) Describe the hardships experienced by the ordinary people during the war. Explain your views with reference to the novel. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) The following sentence appears as a headline to a newspaper report:

“Never had I seen so many men drained of hope and spirit.”

Imagine that you are a journalist writing from Spain at the time of the Civil War. Write the report that you would send in under this headline.

N.B. Your report must be based on the events in the novel.

OR

- (ii) Laurie Lee states that crossing the Pyrenees in December was just ‘one of a number of idiocies’ he committed at that time.
Write a letter to Laurie Lee in which you tell him whether you agree with this view he has of himself.
Use reference to the novel to support your points.

OR

- (iii) One reader said: *‘Writers of war books should not glorify war.’*
Do you think that Laurie Lee glorifies war in his book *A Moment of War*?
Refer to the text to support the points you make.

E DEATH AND NIGHTINGALES – Eugene McCabe

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Towards the end of the novel, thinking of Liam Ward, Beth says:
“He loves me: he loves me not.”
What is your view of the relationship between Liam and Beth? Do you think they loved each other? (10)

E (Continued)

(b) Billy Winters, Beth's Father, describes her as:

- of a pure and honest disposition
- hard working
- bright and trustworthy

Choose the description that, in your view, most clearly applies to Beth.

Explain your answer. (10)

2. Briefly describe any **one** incident in the novel that you found exciting.

Explain why you chose it. (10)

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

(i) Your local library is holding an event called *My Favourite Novel*, where readers explain what they particularly like about their chosen novel. You are to take part and you choose to introduce *Death and Nightingales* to the audience. Write the talk you would give.

OR

(ii) The local Catholic Bishop refers to Billy Winters, Beth's Father, in the following way: "I don't think Billy Winters believes in anything much apart from money and malt whiskey but he's straight, which is more than can be said for a lot of our crowd."

What do you think of this view of Billy Winters? Support your answer by reference to the text.

OR

(iii) What kind of place would you imagine Clonoula, the place where the story is set, to be? Write a short article for a newspaper in which you describe a visit you might have made to it.

F JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK – Sean O'Casey

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Briefly describe how Juno helps Mary, her daughter, after finding out that she is pregnant. (10)

(b) Describe Captain Boyle's response to the fact that Mary is pregnant. (10)

2. Do you think that Jerry Devine does the right thing in rejecting Mary when he discovers she is pregnant by Bentham?

Explain your answer. (10)

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

(i) "I'm an owl comrade – you wouldn't shoot an owl comrade."

Imagine Johnny were to make a speech to the men who are going to kill him in order to convince them to let him go. Write the speech he would make.

OR

(ii) If you were an actor, which character in the play, *Juno and the Paycock*, would you like to play? Explain your choice and describe how you would bring the character to life.

OR

F (Continued)

- (iii) “While the play, *Juno and the Paycock*, is basically sad, there is much in it to make us laugh.”

Describe one comic situation from the play and say why, in your opinion, it was so funny.

G AS YOU LIKE IT – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Write a short account of **one** scene or moment in *As You Like It* that appealed to you. Support your account by reference to the text. (10)

- (b) Which character from the play did you like best? Give a reason for your answer supporting it by reference to the play. (10)

2. There are many disagreements between characters in the play *As You Like It*. Briefly describe one disagreement that you found interesting. (10)

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

- (i) Imagine you are one of the characters from the Forest of Arden. Write a letter to someone who lives at the Court describing your life in the forest.

OR

- (ii) If you were an actor, which character from the play, *As You Like It*, would you like to play? Explain your choice and say how you would bring the character to life.

OR

- (iii) “*As You Like It* is a love story and a funny one at that!”

What do you think of this view of the play? Give reasons for your answer, supporting them by reference to the text.

H KING LEAR – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. In the opening scene of the play Lear says:

“Tell me, my daughters,...

Which of you shall we say doth love us most...?”

- (a) Describe King Lear’s reaction when Cordelia refused to take part in the Love Test he organised for his daughters at the start of the play. (10)

- (b) In your opinion did Cordelia do the right thing in refusing to take part? Explain your view. (10)

2. Apart from the Love Test, what do you think was the most important moment in the play? Give reasons for your answer, supporting them by reference to the text. (10)

H (Continued)

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

(i) The most important lesson the play teaches us is that -

- *Young people have a duty to respect their elders, no matter what*
- *People are not to be trusted*
- *Everybody makes mistakes*

Choose **one** of the above statements and explain how the play teaches you that lesson.

OR

(ii) Imagine that the Fool kept a diary of the time he spent with King Lear. Write out **two** entries he might make about his experience during that time.

OR

(iii) Your local library is holding an event called *My Favourite Play* where readers explain what they particularly liked about their chosen play. You are to take part and you choose to introduce *King Lear* to the audience. Write the talk you would give.

I **OF MICE AND MEN** – John Steinbeck

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) At one stage George says to Lennie:

“God a’mighty, if I was alone I could live so easy.”

From your reading of the novel, do you think this is true? Explain your answer. (10)

(b) How, in your view, does the everyday life of George and Lennie differ from their dream of a place of their own? Explain your answer. (10)

(c) Do you think that George was right to kill Lennie at the end of the book? Give reasons for your view. (10)

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

(i) ‘The novel, *Of Mice and Men*, shows us that real friendship is more important than anything else in life.’

Write the speech that you would give to your classmates either in favour of **or** against this statement.

OR

(ii) Imagine that you witnessed the murder of Curley’s wife. Write out the statement that you would make to the police when they interview you.

OR

(iii) Explain why you would, or would not, recommend that holiday makers take the novel, *Of Mice and Men*, away with them for reading on their holiday.

SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

Candidates must answer **ONE** question from **either A** – Aspects of Story, **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 writing, and film. The questions use the word **author** to refer to novelists, playwrights, writers in all genres, and film directors.

A ASPECTS OF STORY: TENSION OR CLIMAX OR RESOLUTION

1. (a) Name a text on your comparative course where you found that the tension **or** climax **or** resolution held your interest in the story being told.

Explain what it was about the tension **or** climax **or** resolution you have chosen that held your interest. (30)

- (b) Compare the way **the same aspect** (tension **or** climax **or** resolution) in another of your comparative texts held your interest in the story being told. Support your answer by referring to each text. (40)

OR

2. The following are key aspects of stories: tension **or** climax **or** resolution.

- (a) Choose **one** of these aspects and describe its importance in any one of the texts on your comparative course. Illustrate your points by reference to a key moment from the text. (30)

- (b) Focusing on the aspect of story you chose for part (a) above, show how the text you wrote about is similar to or different from another text on your course. In your answer make sure to focus on tension **or** climax **or** resolution. (40)

B SOCIAL SETTING

1. (a) Name the text from your comparative course which describes a world that you would either like to visit **or** avoid.

Describe the features of that world explaining why you find it either attractive or not. (30)

- (b) Compare the world that you have just described with the world from another text you have studied on your comparative course. Explain what it is about this second world that you find **either more or less** attractive than the one already described in (a).

Refer to each text to support the points you are making. (40)

OR

2. (a) “A key moment in a text can tell us how a social setting can influence a character in a text.”

Describe a key moment from **one** of the texts you studied on your comparative course that tells how a character was influenced by the social setting at an important time. (30)

- (b) Describe a key moment from another one of the texts on your comparative course and show how the social setting influenced a character in the same or in a different way to the one you have already described in (a) above.

Refer to each text to support the points you make. (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)

Gareth Owen writes a poem in which he imagines a city as if it were a person singing its own song.

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

SONG OF THE CITY

My brain is stiff with concrete
My limbs are rods of steel
My belly's stuffed with money
My soul was bought in a deal.

They poured metal through my arteries
They choked my lungs with lead
They churned my blood to plastic
They put murder into my head.

I'd a face like a map of the weather
Flesh that grew to the bone
But they tore my story out of my eyes
And turned my heart to stone.

Let me wind from my source like a river
Let me grow like wheat from the grain
Let me hold out my arms like a natural tree
Let my children love me again.

Gareth Owen

1. Do you think this is a sad or a happy song? Give reasons for your answer, based on your reading of the poem. (10)
2. What does the City hope for in the final 4 lines? Explain your answer. (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A ADLESTROP

Yes. I remember Adlestrop -
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.
No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop - only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

Edward Thomas

1. (a) What, in your view, do we learn about Adlestrop from reading this poem? Support your answer by reference to the text. (10)
 - (b) How does the poem create the feeling that it is both hot and quiet on the railway platform in Adlestrop when the train stops there? Refer to the words of the poem in your answer. (10)
 - (c) Write out a phrase or line from the poem that particularly appeals to you and explain what you especially like about it. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
- (i) Imagine that you were on the train on the day it stopped in Adlestrop. Write out a diary entry describing the experience.

OR

- (ii) Someone has said of this poem:
It has an important message for people today, especially for people who live in a hurried and busy world.

What do you think of this view of the poem? Support your answer by reference to the text.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you were asked to provide music that would accompany a reading of this poem. Describe the kind of music you would choose and explain your choice by referring to the words and ideas in the poem.

B Extracts from **PRELUDES**

I
The winter evening settles down
With smell of steaks in passageways.
Six o'clock.
The burnt-out ends of smoky days.
And now a gusty shower wraps
The grimy scraps
Of withered leaves about your feet
And newspapers from vacant lots;
The showers beat
On broken blinds and chimney-pots,
And at the corner of the street
A lonely cab-horse steams and stamps.

And then the lighting of the lamps.

II
The morning comes to consciousness
Of faint stale smells of beer
From the sawdust-trampled street
With all its muddy feet that press
To early coffee-stands.

With the other masquerades
That time resumes,
One thinks of all the hands
That are raising dingy shades
In a thousand furnished rooms.

T.S. Eliot

1. (a) Choose one detail of the evening that appeals to you as it is described in Prelude I. Explain your answer with reference to Prelude I. (10)
 - (b) Which of the following statements is closest to your view of the poet's mood as seen in Prelude II?
 - *he is sad*
 - *he is lonely*
 - *he is calm*

Refer to Prelude II to support your answer. (10)
 - (c) Explain whether you do or do not like the general sense of city life as it is portrayed in the above Preludes.
Refer to the Preludes to support your answer. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) A collection of poems called *Places and Moods* is being put together. Explain why you would or would not recommend this poem for inclusion in the collection.

OR
 - (ii) Imagine that you were making a short video for a competition called *Verse to Video*. You choose either Prelude I or II. Explain –
 - (a) Which Prelude you would choose.
 - (b) How you would make the video entertaining.
 - (c) The music you would use.

OR
 - (iii) Suggest a new title for this poem. Give reasons for your choice of title, supporting them by reference to the poem.

C THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

W. B. Yeats

1. (a) Write down one thing you learned about the poet W.B. Yeats from reading this poem. (10)
 - (b) Choose two details from the first eight lines of the poem that best capture the peacefulness of the island of Innisfree. Explain your choice. (10)
 - (c) Do you imagine that you would enjoy living on the Lake Isle of Innisfree? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
- (i) You were asked to write a short piece for a holiday brochure promoting weekend breaks on The Lake Isle of Innisfree. Write the piece making use of some details from the poem.
- OR**
- (ii) Compare this poem with any other poem by W.B. Yeats that you have studied as part of your course.
- OR**
- (iii) Imagine you were asked to make a short video to accompany a reading of this poem. Explain how you would use setting, colour or any other device to make the reading more interesting.

D THE VOICE

When God took my aunt's baby boy, a merciful neighbour
Gave her a parrot. She could not have afforded one
But now bought a new cage as brilliant as the bird,
And turned her back on the idea of other babies.

He looked unlikely. In her house his scarlet feathers
Stuck out like a jungle, though his blue ones blended
With the local pottery which carried messages
Like 'Du ee help yerself to crame, me handsome.'

He said nothing when he arrived, not a quotation
From pet-shop gossip or a sailor's oath, no sound
From someone's home: the telephone or car-door slamming,
And none from his: tom-tom, war-cry or wild beast roaring.

He came from silence but was ready to become noise.
My aunt taught him nursery rhymes morning after morning.
He learnt Miss Muffett, Jack and Jill, Little Jack Horner,
Including her jokes; she used to say turds and whey.

A genuine Devon accent is not easy. Actors
Cannot do it. He could though. In his court clothes
He sounded like a farmer, as her son might have.
He sounded like our family. He fitted in.

Years went by. We came and went. A day or two
Before he died, he got confused, and muddled up
His rhymes. Jack Horner ate his pail of water.
The spider said what a good boy he was. I wept.

He had never seemed puzzled by the bizarre events
He spoke of. But the last day he turned his head towards us
With the bewilderment of death upon him. Said
'Broke his crown' and 'Christmas pie'. And tumbled after.

My aunt died the next winter, widowed, childless, pitied
And patronised. I cannot summon up her voice at all.
She would not have expected it to be remembered
After so long. But I can still hear his.

Patricia Beer

1. (a) What picture of the poet's aunt emerges from this poem?
Refer to the poem in your answer. (10)
- (b) In your opinion, what part did the parrot play in the aunt's life? Explain your answer by referring to the words and events in the poem. (10)
- (c) Which of the following statements best describes *your* response to the poem? Give a reason for your answer.
- *I found the poem amusing*
 - *I found the poem sad*
 - *I found the poem both amusing and sad* (10)

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

- (i) Imagine that the poet was asked to make a speech at the 'funeral' of the parrot. Write out the speech that you imagine she might deliver.

OR

- (ii) '*Nature's creatures should not be kept in cages for our amusement.*'

Write a short piece outlining your views on this topic. You should refer to the poem to support the points you make.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you were asked to make a short film or video using **one moment or event** from this poem. Describe the moment or event you would choose and explain the kind of film or video you would make.

Blank Page