



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2004

English - Higher Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday , 9th 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
- **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 (*Macbeth*)

or in SECTION II, The Comparative Study (*King Lear, Macbeth, Twelfth Night*)

INDEX OF SINGLE TEXTS

Wuthering Heights	– Page 2
Silas Marner	– Page 2
A Doll's House	– Page 2
Amongst Women	– Page 3
Macbeth	– Page 3



SECTION I
THE SINGLE TEXT (60 marks)

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

A WUTHERING HEIGHTS – Emily Brontë

- (i) “Emily Brontë’s novel, *Wuthering Heights*, causes the reader to wonder which is the more powerful force – love or hate.”

Write a response to this statement, supporting your views by reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Write an essay on the aspects of the novel, *Wuthering Heights*, that you found most interesting or enjoyable to read. Support your points by reference to the text.

B SILAS MARNER – George Eliot

- (i) “The novel *Silas Marner* has much to teach us about the importance of love for human happiness.”

Discuss this view of the novel, supporting your answer by reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “The life lived by the people of Raveloe is an appealing one.”

Write a response to this view of the novel, *Silas Marner*, supporting your answer by reference to the text .

C A DOLL’S HOUSE – Henrik Ibsen

- (i) “Nora retains our sympathy at the end of the play but Torvald does not.”

To what extent would you agree with this view? Support your answer by reference to the play.

OR

- (ii) “The relationship between Nora and Torvald is powerfully conveyed in the title of the play, ‘*A Doll’s House*’.”

Write a response to this statement, supporting your views by reference to the text.

D **AMONGST WOMEN** – John McGahern

- (i) “*Amongst Women* is a powerful portrayal of a family whose world has its joys and its sorrows.”

Discuss this view of the novel, supporting your points by reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “Of all the members of the Moran family, it is Rose, Michael’s wife, who most deserves our admiration.”

Write a response to this view of Rose, supporting your points by reference to the text.

E **MACBETH** – William Shakespeare

- (i) “Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* invites us to look into the world of a man driven on by ruthless ambition and tortured by regret.”

Write a response to this view of the play, *Macbeth*, supporting the points you make by reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “The play, *Macbeth*, has many scenes of compelling drama.”

Choose one scene that you found compelling and say why you found it to be so. Support your answer by reference to the play.



SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from **either A – Theme or Issue 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 THEME OR ISSUE

1. “Exploring a theme or issue through different texts allows us to make interesting comparisons.”

Write an essay comparing the treatment of a single theme that is common to the texts you have studied for your comparative course.

(70)

OR

2. “Any moment in a text can express a major theme or issue.”

(a) Choose a moment from each of two texts you have studied for your comparative course and compare the way these moments express the same theme or issue.

(40)

(b) Show how a third text you have studied expresses the same theme or issue through a key moment.

(30)

B LITERARY GENRE

1. “Literary Genre is the way in which a story is told.”

Choose **at least two** of the texts you have studied as part of your comparative course and, in the light of your understanding of the term Literary Genre, write a comparative essay about the ways in which their stories are told. Support the comparisons you make by reference to the texts. (70)

OR

2. “Texts tell their stories differently.”

- (a) Compare **two** of the texts you have studied in your comparative course in the light of the above statement. (40)
- (b) Write a short comparative commentary on a third text from your comparative study in the light of your answer to question (a) above. (30)

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.

Margaret Walker is an African American poet. In this poem she celebrates the experiences of the African Americans.

I WANT TO WRITE

I want to write
I want to write the songs of my people.
I want to hear them singing melodies in the dark.
I want to catch the last floating strains from their sob-torn

throats.

I want to frame their dreams into words; their souls into

notes.

I want to catch their sunshine laughter in a bowl;
fling dark hands to a darker sky
and fill them full of stars
then crush and mix such lights till they become
a mirrored pool of brilliance in the dawn.

1. Write a response to the above poem, highlighting the impact it makes on you. (20)

OR

2. (a) Write down one phrase from the poem that shows how the poet feels about her people. Say why you have chosen this phrase. (10)
- (b) Does this poem make you feel hopeful or not hopeful? Briefly explain why. (10)

B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

1. “There are many reasons why the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins appeals to his readers.”

In response to the above statement, write an essay on the poetry of Hopkins. Your essay should focus clearly on the reasons why the poetry is appealing and should refer to the poetry on your course.

2. Imagine you were asked to select one or more of Patrick Kavanagh’s poems from your course for inclusion in a short anthology entitled, “The Essential Kavanagh”.

Give reasons for your choice, quoting from or referring to the poem or poems you have chosen.

3. “Speaking of Derek Mahon...”
Write out the text of a public talk you might give on the poetry of Derek Mahon. Your talk should make reference to the poetry on your course.

4. “I like (or do not like) to read the poetry of Sylvia Plath.”

Respond to this statement, referring to the poetry by Sylvia Plath on your course.

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