



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2016

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Thursday, 9th 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

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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. Give two pieces of evidence from the novel to show that life is sometimes difficult for Eve Malone. (10)
2. (a) Do you think that Simon Westward has a mainly positive or a mainly negative impact on Nan Mahon? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
(b) Name a character from the novel that you think would disapprove if he or she knew about Nan and Simon’s secret relationship. Explain why you think this character would disapprove of this relationship. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) ‘Family is important in the novel *Circle of Friends*.’
Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer, demonstrating your knowledge of the text.
OR
 - (ii) You have been asked to recommend a novel to your school Book Club. Explain why you would or would not recommend *Circle of Friends* to the Book Club readers. Your recommendation should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.
OR
 - (iii) Imagine that you are Mother Frances. Write two diary entries: one dealing with Eve Malone’s arrival in the convent as a child, and another about your hopes for Eve’s future after she moves to Dublin. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.

B WUTHERING HEIGHTS – Emily BrontëAnswer **all** of the questions.

1. Give two pieces of evidence from the novel to show that life is sometimes difficult for Hareton Earnshaw. (10)
2. (a) Do you think that Catherine Earnshaw has a mainly positive or a mainly negative impact on Heathcliff? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
(b) Name a character from the novel that disapproves of the relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw. Explain why this character disapproves of this relationship. (10)

QUESTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

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

(i) ‘Social class is important in the novel *Wuthering Heights*.’

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer, demonstrating your knowledge of the text.

OR

(ii) You have been asked to recommend a novel to your school Book Club. Explain why you would or would not recommend *Wuthering Heights* to the Book Club readers. Your recommendation should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.

OR

(iii) Imagine that you are Edgar Linton. Write two diary entries: one dealing with your wedding to Catherine Earnshaw and another giving your reaction to Heathcliff’s return. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.

C THE GREAT GATSBY – F. Scott Fitzgerald

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. Give two pieces of evidence from the novel to show that life is sometimes difficult for Jay Gatsby. (10)

2. (a) Do you think that Tom Buchanan has a mainly positive or a mainly negative impact on Myrtle Wilson? Give one reason for your answer. (10)

(b) Name a character from the novel that you think would disapprove if he or she knew about Tom and Myrtle’s relationship. Explain why you think this character would disapprove of this relationship. (10)

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

(i) ‘Loyalty is important in the novel *The Great Gatsby*.’

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer, demonstrating your knowledge of the text.

OR

(ii) You have been asked to recommend a novel to your school Book Club. Explain why you would or would not recommend *The Great Gatsby* to the Book Club readers. Your recommendation should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.

OR

(iii) Imagine that you are Nick Carraway. Write two diary entries: one giving the impression you form when you first meet Jay Gatsby and another about Gatsby’s death. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.

D TRANSLATIONS – Brian Friel

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. Give two pieces of evidence from the play to show that life is sometimes difficult for Manus O'Donnell. (10)
2. (a) Do you think that Lieutenant Yolland has a mainly positive or a mainly negative effect on Maire? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
(b) Name a character from *Translations* that you think would disapprove of the relationship between Maire and Yolland. Explain why you think he or she would disapprove of this relationship. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) 'Language is important in the play *Translations*.'
Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer, demonstrating your knowledge of the text.

OR

- (ii) You have been asked to recommend a play to be performed by the Transition Year class in your school. Explain why you would or would not recommend *Translations* for this purpose. Your recommendation should demonstrate your knowledge of the play.

OR

- (iii) Imagine that you are Captain Lancey. Write two diary entries: one giving your first impressions on arriving in Ireland and another about Lieutenant Yolland's disappearance and your reaction to this event. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the play.

E BIG MAGGIE – John B. Keane

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. Give two pieces of evidence from the play to show that life is sometimes difficult for Gert Polpin. (10)
2. (a) Do you think that Maggie Polpin has a mainly positive or a mainly negative impact on her son, Maurice? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
(b) Name a character from the play who you think disapproves of Maggie's behaviour towards Maurice. Explain why you think this character disapproves of Maggie's behaviour. (10)

QUESTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

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

(i) ‘Family is important in the play *Big Maggie*.’

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer, demonstrating your knowledge of the text.

OR

(ii) You have been asked to recommend a play to be performed by the Transition Year class in your school. Explain why you would or would not recommend *Big Maggie* for this purpose. Your recommendation should demonstrate your knowledge of the play.

OR

(iii) Imagine that you are Mary Madden. Write two diary entries: one dealing with your encounter with Maggie Polpin in her shop and another about your wedding to Maurice Polpin. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the play.

F HOME BEFORE NIGHT – Hugh Leonard

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. Give two pieces of evidence from the text to show that life is sometimes difficult for Jack Keyes Byrne. (10)

2. (a) Do you think that Mr Drumm has a mainly positive or a mainly negative impact on Jack Keyes Byrne? Give one reason for your answer. (10)

(b) Name a character from *Home Before Night* that you find amusing. Explain why you find this character amusing. (10)

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

(i) ‘Relationships are important in the book *Home Before Night*.’

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer, demonstrating your knowledge of the text.

OR

(ii) You have been asked to recommend a book to your school Book Club. Explain why you would or would not recommend *Home Before Night* to the Book Club readers. Your recommendation should demonstrate your knowledge of the book.

OR

(iii) Imagine that you are Jack’s adoptive father. Write two diary entries: one dealing with the problems caused by the family’s dog, and another about your meeting with Sister Ita at the Loreto Convent. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

G DEATH AND NIGHTINGALES – Eugene McCabe

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. Give two pieces of evidence from the novel to show that life is sometimes difficult for Billy Winters. (10)
2. (a) Do you think that Liam Ward has a mainly positive or a mainly negative impact on Beth Winters? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
(b) Name a character from the novel that you think would disapprove if he or she knew about the relationship between Beth and Liam. Explain why you think this character would disapprove of this relationship. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) ‘Loyalty is important in the novel *Death and Nightingales*.’
Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer, demonstrating your knowledge of the text.

OR

- (ii) You have been asked to recommend a novel to your school Book Club. Explain why you would or would not recommend *Death and Nightingales* to the Book Club readers. Your recommendation should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel.
- OR**
- (iii) Imagine that you are Mercy Boyle. Write two diary entries: one about your day-to-day life in the Winters’ household and another giving your reaction when Billy Winters tells you to leave his house. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the novel, *Death and Nightingales*.

H THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS – Sean O’Casey

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. Give two pieces of evidence from the play to show that life is sometimes difficult for Nora Clitheroe. (10)
2. (a) Do you think that his involvement with the Irish Citizen Army has a mainly positive or a mainly negative impact on Jack Clitheroe? Give one reason for your answer. (10)
(b) Name a character from *The Plough and the Stars* that you think disapproves of the actions of the Irish Citizen Army in the play. Explain why you think he or she disapproves. (10)

QUESTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

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

(i) 'Loyalty is important in the play *The Plough and the Stars*.'

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer, demonstrating your knowledge of the text.

OR

(ii) You have been asked to recommend a play to be performed by the Transition Year class in your school. Explain why you would or would not recommend *The Plough and the Stars* for this purpose. Your recommendation should demonstrate your knowledge of the play.

OR

(iii) Imagine that you are Mrs Gogan. Write two diary entries: one dealing with the death of your daughter, Mollser, and another giving your reaction to the 1916 Rising. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the play.

I **KING LEAR** – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. Give two pieces of evidence from the play to show that life is sometimes difficult for Gloucester. (10)

2. (a) Do you think that Lear has a mainly positive or a mainly negative impact on his daughter, Cordelia? Give one reason for your answer. (10)

(b) Name a character from the play that disapproves of Lear's behaviour towards Cordelia. Explain why this character disapproves of Lear's behaviour. (10)

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

(i) 'Loyalty is important in the play *King Lear*.'

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give reasons for your answer, demonstrating your knowledge of the text.

OR

(ii) You have been asked to recommend a play to be performed by the Transition Year class in your school. Explain why you would or would not recommend *King Lear* for this purpose. Your recommendation should demonstrate your knowledge of the play.

OR

(iii) Imagine that you are Cordelia's husband, the King of France. Write two diary entries: one dealing with your marriage to Cordelia, and another giving your reaction to her death. Your diary entries should demonstrate your knowledge of the play.

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**. All texts used in this section must be prescribed for comparative study for this year's examination. Candidates may refer to only one film in the course of their answers.

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.

A RELATIONSHIPS

1. (a) (i) Identify a relationship in **one** of the three texts on your comparative course and explain how one significant event in the text affected this relationship. Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) In the case of **at least one other text** on your comparative course, identify a relationship and explain how one significant event in the text(s) affected your chosen relationship(s). Support your answer with reference to the text(s). (15)
- (b) Compare how successful you find the relationships you discussed in **at least two** of the texts you referred to in part 1.(a) above. Support your answer with reference to the texts. (40)

OR

2. (a) (i) Identify a relationship in **one** of the three texts on your comparative course, and describe at least one way in which you think the characters in that relationship are similar to or different from each other. Use one or more key moments from the text to support your answer. (15)
- (ii) Identify a relationship, from **at least one other text** on your comparative course, and describe at least one way in which you think the characters in the relationship(s) are similar to or different from each other. Use one or more key moments from the text(s) to support your answer. (15)
- (b) Compare how successful you find the relationships you discussed in **at least two** of the texts you referred to in part 2.(a) above. Support your answer with reference to the texts. (40)

B SOCIAL SETTING

1. (a) Inequality or injustice can often feature in the social settings of texts.
- (i) Write about at least one example of inequality or injustice from **one** of the texts on your comparative course. Use one or more key moments from the text to support your answer. (15)
 - (ii) Write about at least one example of inequality or injustice from **at least one other text** you have studied for your comparative course. Use one or more key moments from the text(s) to support your answer. (15)
- (b) Compare how attractive you find the social settings you encounter in **at least two** of the texts you referred to in part 1.(a) above. Support your answer with reference to the texts. (40)

OR

2. (a) (i) Describe at least one way in which you find the social setting in **one** of the three texts you have studied for your comparative course similar to or different from the world in which you live. Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Describe at least one way in which you find the social setting(s) in **at least one other text** you have studied for your comparative course similar to or different from the world in which you live. Support your answer with reference to the text(s). (15)
- (b) Compare how attractive you find the social settings you encounter in **at least two** of the texts you referred to in part 2.(a) above. Support your answer with reference to the texts. (40)

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 poet, Susan Meyers, remembers her mother's willingness to wash dishes every day after Susan and her sister had eaten.

Read the following poem, and the two questions that follow, at least twice before writing your answers.

Mother, Washing Dishes

She rarely made us do it –
we'd clear the table instead – so my sister and I teased
that someday we'd train our children right
and not end up like her, after every meal stuck
with red knuckles, a bleached rag to wipe and wring.
The one chore she spared us: gummy plates
in water greasy and swirling with sloughed peas,
globes of egg and gravy.

Or did she guard her place
at the window? Not wanting to give up the gloss
of the magnolia, the school traffic humming.
Sunset, finches at the feeder. First sightings
of the mail truck at the curb, just after noon,
delivering a note, a card, the least bit of news.

Susan Meyers

1. From your reading of stanza one, do you think that the words used by the poet make the task of washing dishes seem attractive or unattractive? Refer to the first stanza in support of your answer. (10)
2. Based on your reading of stanza two, do you think that the mother in the poem enjoyed the time she spent washing dishes? Explain your answer with reference to the second stanza. (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A 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) Describe, in your own words, the scene at the filling station created by the poet in this poem. (10)
 - (b) Identify a line or phrase from this poem that you enjoy and explain why you enjoy it. (10)
 - (c) In your opinion, is Bishop mainly positive or mainly negative about what she sees at the filling station? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Do you like or dislike this poem? In your response identify at least two aspects of the poem that influence your view. Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (ii) Imagine that you are one of the sons in the poem. Write a letter to Elizabeth Bishop in which you respond to what she wrote about your home and your family in the poem, “Filling Station”. Refer to the poem in your answer.

OR

- (iii) Write a piece about the language in this poem, beginning with one of the following phrases:

- I find the language in this poem interesting and easy to understand ...
- I find the language in this poem challenging and unusual ...

B I FELT A FUNERAL IN MY BRAIN

I felt a Funeral, in my Brain,
And Mourners to and fro
Kept treading – treading – till it seemed
That Sense was breaking through –

And when they all were seated,
A Service, like a Drum –
Kept beating – beating – till I thought
My Mind was going numb –

And then I heard them lift a Box
And creak across my Soul
With those same Boots of Lead, again,
Then Space – began to toll,

As all the Heavens were a Bell,
And Being, but an Ear,
And I, and Silence, some strange Race,
Wrecked, solitary, here –

And then a Plank in Reason, broke,
And I dropped down, and down –
And hit a World, at every plunge,
And Finished knowing – then –

Emily Dickinson

1. (a) Describe, in your own words, the funeral scene created by the poet in this poem. (10)
- (b) Select a line or phrase from the poem that made an impact on you and explain why it made an impact on you. (10)
- (c) In your opinion, is the poet mainly optimistic or mainly pessimistic in this poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Do you like or dislike this poem? In your response identify at least two aspects of the poem that influence your view. Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR
 - (ii) You have been asked to organise a performance of this poem by one or more performers. Describe the set you would create, the costume(s), the make-up, the music you would use and any sound or special effects you think would enhance the performance. Support your response with reference to the poem.

OR
 - (iii) Write a piece about the language in this poem, beginning with one of the following phrases:
 - I find the language in this poem interesting and unusual ...
 - I find the language in this poem challenging and complicated ...



C AFTER VIEWING *THE BOWLING MATCH AT CASTLEMARY, CLOYNE (1847)*

I promised to show you the bowlers
out the Blarney Road after Sunday mass,
you were so taken with that painting
of the snazzy, top-hatted peasant class
all agog at the bowler in full swing,
down to his open shirt, in trousers
as indecently tight as a baseballer's.

You would relish each fling's span
Along blackberry boreens, and delight
in a dinger of a curve throw
as the bowl hurls out of sight,
not to mention the earthy lingo
& antics of gambling fans,
Giving players thumbs-up or down the banks.

It's not just to witness such shenanigans
for themselves, but to be relieved
from whatever lurks in our background,
just as the picture's crowd is freed
of famine & exile darkening the land,
waiting to see where the bowl spins
off, a planet out of orbit, and who wins.

Greg Delanty

1. (a) Describe, in your own words, the bowling match that appears in the painting mentioned by the poet in the first stanza of this poem. (10)
- (b) Select a line or phrase from the poem that you enjoy and explain why you enjoy it. (10)
- (c) In your opinion, is the poet mainly optimistic or mainly pessimistic in this poem? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)

QUESTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

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

- (i) Do you like or dislike this poem? In your response identify at least two aspects of the poem that influence your view. Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (ii) Based on what you have read about the sport of road bowling in the above poem, would you like to learn more about this sport? Explain your answer with reference to the poem.

OR

- (iii) Write a piece about the language in this poem, beginning with one of the following phrases:

- I find the language in this poem interesting and exciting ...
- I find the language in this poem complicated and unusual ...

D OZYMANDIAS

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert ... Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:

And on the pedestal, these words appear:
“My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty and despair!”
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

Percy Bysshe Shelley

1. (a) Describe, in your own words, what the traveller reports in stanza one of this poem. (10)
 - (b) Identify a line or phrase from the poem that made an impact on you and explain why it made an impact on you. (10)
 - (c) Based on your reading of the poem, do you think the poet conveys a mainly positive or a mainly negative view of Ozymandias? Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
- (i) Do you like or dislike this poem? In your response identify at least two aspects of the poem that influence your view. Support your answer with reference to the poem.
- OR**
- (ii) Imagine you are the traveller from Shelley’s poem. Write a letter to a friend in which you remember your experiences in the desert and explain how you were affected by what you saw. Your letter should demonstrate your knowledge of the poem.
- OR**
- (iii) Write a piece about the language in this poem, beginning with one of the following phrases:
 - I find the language in this poem interesting and unusual ...
 - I find the language in this poem complicated and challenging ...

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