



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2004

English - Ordinary 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
- **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 **EMPIRE OF THE SUN** – J. G. Ballard

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe how Jim becomes separated from his father and mother. (10)
 - (b) “Jim will do whatever he has to in order to survive.” Describe one event in the novel that shows this clearly. (10)
 - (c) What do you think of the behaviour of the adult prisoners in the detention camps? Give one example to support your view. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) “*Empire of the Sun* gives you a very clear picture of what war is really like.” Do you share this view? Support your answer by reference to the novel.
OR
 - (ii) A group of students asks you to tell them about the novel you have studied. Write out the short talk you would give them on *Empire of the Sun*.
OR
 - (iii) You are Jim. You are now an old man remembering the things that you went through during the war. Write about the things you remember most clearly, using the title ‘Looking back after 60 years’.

B **WUTHERING HEIGHTS** – Emily Brontë

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Why is Lockwood so frightened during the night that he is forced to spend at Wuthering Heights? (10)
 - (b) Wuthering Heights is a place where many cruel things happen. Describe one of the cruel things that happen there. (10)
2. One reader said: “Thrushcross Grange is not a cruel place.” Do you agree? Explain why or why not. (10)

B (Continued)

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

- (i) “Reading *Wuthering Heights* makes you realize that love hurts.”
Would you agree that the novel has this effect? Support your answer by reference to the novel.

OR

- (ii) Do you feel sorry for Heathcliff? Explain why or why not.
Support your answer by reference to the novel.

OR

- (iii) “Like mother, like daughter.”
Do you think Catherine Earnshaw (Cathy) is like her daughter, Catherine Linton? Explain your view with reference to the novel.

C **SILAS MARNER** – George Eliot

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe Silas’s lonely life in Raveloe up to the point where his money is stolen by Dunstan Cass. (10)

- (b) How does the theft of his money change Silas’s relationship with the Raveloe people? (10)

2. Describe how Silas reacts on the night Eppie arrives in his house. (10)

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

- (i) When Godfrey Cass comes to claim Eppie, Silas says, “You have no right to her.”
Imagine you are the judge deciding whether Eppie should go with Godfrey or stay with Silas. Give your decision and explain how you have arrived at it.

OR

- (ii) Do you think that everyone has got what he/she deserves at the end of *Silas Marner*?
Support your view by referring in detail to **one** character as an example.

OR

- (iii) *Silas Marner* has been a popular and well-loved book for almost 150 years.
Do you think it deserves to be read by people today? Support your answer by referring to your own experience of reading the novel.



D A DOLL'S HOUSE – Henrik Ibsen

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Why does Krogstad first call on Nora and why is she so upset by what he says? (10)
 - (b) Do you think Nora is a capable or a useless person? Explain your view. (10)
 - (c) Do you think Nora is right to leave Torvald and her children? Refer to the play to support your view. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) The ending of *A Doll's House* shocked people when it was first performed. Do you think it would shock people today? Support your answer with reference to the play.

OR

- (ii) Your class is having a debate on the motion 'that *A Doll's House* is not true to life'. Write out the speech you would make for **or** against the motion.

OR

- (iii) Have your views on love and marriage changed as a result of reading *A Doll's House*? Explain why or why not, referring to the text in support of the points you make.

E THE SILENT PEOPLE – Walter Macken

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Briefly describe what Dualta is supposed to do, and what he actually does, on the night of the attack on Wilcocks's house. (10)
 - (b) How does Dualta's attitude to violence change during the course of the novel? Support your answer by reference to the novel. (10)
2. Who do you consider to be the bravest character in *The Silent People*? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) "In *The Silent People* terrible things happen, but love and hope do not die." Do you think this is an accurate comment on the novel? Support your response by reference to the novel.

OR

E (Continued)

(ii) People enjoy historical novels [novels that are set in the past] for different reasons:-

- *they tell exciting stories*
- *they teach you about the way things were*
- *they give you a better understanding of your own world*

Choose **one** of these statements and show how *The Silent People* fits the description you have chosen.

OR

(iii) Imagine that you could travel back to the time of *The Silent People* and meet the characters who appear in the story. Name **one** character that you would particularly like to meet and explain why. What would you like to say to him or her?

F **LIES OF SILENCE** – Brian Moore

Answer **all** of the questions.

- (a) Give a brief account of the first meeting between Father Matt Connolly and Michael Dillon. (10)

(b) Do you think that Father Matt Connolly was right to try to get Michael Dillon not to give evidence against Kev? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- Did the ending of *Lies of Silence* take you by surprise? Explain why or why not. (10)
- Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

(i) Write a letter to a friend recommending *Lies of Silence* as a good read, and giving your reasons.

OR

- (ii) Choose **one** of the following issues that *Lies of Silence* made you think about:
- *violence*
 - *relationships*
 - *courage*
- Say why it is an important issue in the story, and explain how it affected **one** character.

OR

- (iii) “If only...”
- Make **one** change to the storyline of *Lies of Silence* and describe what you think would happen as a result of that change.



G AMONGST WOMEN – John Mc Gahern

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the relationship between Michael Moran and his oldest son Luke. (10)
(b) Do you think that Moran was a bad father to his children? Give reasons for your answer, supporting them by reference to the novel. (10)
2. What effect did Rose's coming to live with the Morans have on the three daughters, Maggie, Sheila, and Mona? (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) How do you think a modern teenager would handle life with the Moran family? Refer to the novel in your response.

OR

- (ii) Here are five descriptions of the Moran family:-
proud; unwelcoming; close-knit; unhappy; loving
Choose the **one** that you agree with most and support your choice by referring to events in the novel.

OR

- (iii) Imagine that you are a neighbour of the Morans and you have a sister in America who likes to keep up with the local news. Write the letter you would send her with the news of Moran's death.

H THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS – Sean O'Casey

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Do you think Nora runs her home well in the first act of the play? Give a reason. (10)
(b) How does life change for Nora as a result of the Easter Rising? (10)
(c) What do you think is the saddest moment in the play? Describe what happens and say what makes it so sad. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Which character would you like to play in *The Plough and the Stars*? Say how you would play the part, and how you would like the audience to react to your character.

OR

H (Continued)

- (ii) Two friends went to see a recent production of the play. One said afterwards, “*I thought it was very depressing and full of death.*” The other said, “*I thought it was very funny and full of life.*”
From your knowledge of the play, would you agree more with the first one, or with the second one? Give reasons for your view and support them by reference to the play.

OR

- (iii) “Fluther Good is the bravest man in the play.”
Discuss this statement, referring in your response to Fluther and at least one other male character.

I **MACBETH** – William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe what happens during the banquet that Macbeth and Lady Macbeth give after he has become king. (10)
- (b) How does Lady Macbeth behave during the banquet scene? Support your answer by reference to the scene. (10)
- (c) What happens to the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth from this point until the end of the play? Support your answer by reference to the play. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) “Lady Macbeth is not an evil woman.”
What do you think of this view? Support your answer by reference to the play.

OR

- (ii) Some people think that the play *Macbeth* should not be performed because it is too violent. Do you agree with this view? Explain why or why not, supporting your answer by reference to the play.

OR

- (iii) Choose **one** important moment from *Macbeth* and describe how you would show it on the stage or on film. Explain your reasons for showing it in this way, pointing out the effect you would like it to have on the audience.



SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

Candidates must answer **ONE** question from **either** A – Aspects of Story, **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, 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. “Tension, climax, and resolution are important aspects of good story-telling.”

- (a) Choose **one** of these aspects (tension **or** climax **or** resolution) and describe a key moment in one of the texts you studied which shows this aspect clearly. (30)
- (b) Compare this key moment to a key moment in another text you studied for your comparative course, and point out how it is similar and/or different.

N.B. You must keep your focus on the aspect of story (tension **or** climax **or** resolution) which you chose in part (a) above. (40)

OR

2. “Tension, climax, and resolution help to make any story more enjoyable.”

- (a) Name a text on your comparative course in which you enjoyed the tension **or** climax **or** resolution. Explain what you enjoyed about the tension **or** climax **or** resolution of the text you have chosen. (30)
- (b) Keeping your focus on the part played by tension **or** climax **or** resolution, compare the text you have already chosen with another text on your comparative course. Begin your answer with one of these opening statements:
- *My second text, X, was also enjoyable...*
 - *My second text, X, was not as enjoyable...*
- (40)

B THEME

1. (a) Name a theme that you found in the texts that you studied for your comparative course. Choose one text and show how the theme plays an important part in the story. (30)
- (b) Compare the way in which **the same theme** plays an important part in the story of another text that you studied. (40)

OR

2. (a) *“Discovering an important theme in a text makes studying the text more interesting.”*
Describe what you find interesting about a theme in one text you studied. (30)
- (b) *“Discovering **the same theme** in another text on your comparative course, you can see interesting comparisons between the two texts.”*
Describe some interesting comparisons you found when you discovered **the same theme** in another text. (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)

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

WAITING

My love will come
will fling open her arms and fold me in them
will understand my fears, observe my changes.
In from the pouring dark, from the pitch night
without stopping to bang the taxi door
she'll run upstairs through the decaying porch
burning with love and love's happiness,
she'll run dripping upstairs, she won't knock,
will take my head in her hands,
and when she drops her overcoat on a chair
it will slide to the floor in a blue heap.

Yevgeny Yevtushenko

1. Do you think that the writer is very much in love?
Give a reason. (10)
2. Write out the line or phrase that, in your opinion, best captures
the writer's feelings. Why did you choose that line or phrase? (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A IT AIN'T WHAT YOU DO IT'S WHAT IT DOES TO YOU

I have not bummed across America
with only a dollar to spare, one pair
of busted Levi's and a bowie knife.
I have lived with thieves in Manchester.

I have not padded through the Taj Mahal,
barefoot, listening to the space between
each footfall picking up and putting down
its print against the marble floor. But I

skimmed flat stones across Black Moss on a day
so still I could hear each set of ripples
as they crossed. I felt each stone's inertia
spend itself against the water; then sink.

I have not toyed with a parachute chord
while perched on the lip of a light-aircraft;
but I held the wobbly head of a boy
at the day centre, and stroked his fat hands.

And I guess that the tightness in the throat
and the tiny cascading sensation
somewhere inside us are both part of that
sense of something else. That feeling, I mean.

Simon Armitage

1.
 - (a) What kind of life does the poet say he has *not* lived? (10)
 - (b) What do the things he *has* done tell you about him? Refer to the poem in your response. (10)
 - (c) Do you think he creates a feeling of stillness in the following lines?
"But I
skimmed flat stones across Black Moss on a day
so still I could hear each set of ripples
as they crossed. I felt each stone's inertia
spend itself against the water; then sink".
Give a reason for your answer. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Armitage thinks that titles are very important. Do you think he has chosen a good title for this poem? Refer to the poem in your response.
OR
 - (ii) Someone asks you to suggest a poem to be included in a collection for young people. You recommend this one. Explain why.
OR
 - (iii) "That feeling, I mean."
What kind of feeling do you think Armitage is describing in the last stanza? Do you think he describes it well? Explain your view.

B **‘WOULD YOU JUMP INTO MY GRAVE AS QUICK?’**

Would you jump into my grave as quick?
my granny would ask when one of us took
her chair by the fire. You, woman,
done up to the nines, red lips a come on,
your breath reeking of drink
and your black eye on my man tonight
in a Dublin bar, think
first of the steep drop, the six dark feet.

Paula Meehan

1. (a) Why did Paula Meehan’s granny say, “Would you jump into my grave as quick?” (10)
- (b) “You, woman,”
What picture do you get of this woman from the poem? (10)
- (c) What warning does the poet give this woman in the final lines of the poem? (10)

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

- (i) Choose one or more of the following words to describe the poem:
funny *vicious* *honest*
Explain your choice and refer to the poem in your answer.

OR

- (ii) What impression of the writer do you get from reading this poem? Refer to the poem in your answer.

OR

- (iii) You want to make a short film of this poem. Describe the sort of atmosphere you would like to create, and say what music, sound effects and images you would use.

C AFTER THE TITANIC

They said I got away in a boat
And humbled me at the inquiry. I tell you
I sank as far that night as any
Hero. As I sat shivering on the dark water
I turned to ice to hear my costly
Life go thundering down in a pandemonium of
Prams, pianos, sideboards, winches,
Boilers bursting and shredded ragtime. Now I hide
In a lonely house behind the sea
Where the tide leaves broken toys and hatboxes
Silently at my door. The showers of
April, flowers of May mean nothing to me, nor the
Late light of June, when my gardener
Describes to strangers how the old man stays in bed
On seaward mornings after nights of
Wind, takes his cocaine and will see no one. Then it is
I drown again with all those dim
Lost faces I never understood, my poor soul
Screams out in the starlight, heart
Breaks loose and rolls down like a stone.
Include me in your lamentations.

Derek Mahon

1.
 - (a) What effect did the sinking of the Titanic have on Bruce Ismay, the speaker in this poem? (10)
 - (b) Do you sympathise with him after reading this poem? Give a reason. (10)
 - (c) What details in the poem make you sympathise with him, or not sympathise with him? (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) “This poem gives you a vivid picture of the disaster.”
Would you agree? Support your answer with reference to the poem.

OR
 - (ii) “Letter from a ghost”
Imagine you are one of the people who drowned on the Titanic. Write a letter to Bruce Ismay telling him about your memories of that night. Use details from the poem in your letter.

OR
 - (iii) In this poem Mahon speaks *as if he is* Bruce Ismay. How well do you think he gets into Bruce Ismay’s mind? Give reasons for your answer.

D**'IT IS A BEAUTEOUS EVENING, CALM AND FREE'**

It is a beauteous evening, calm and free,
The holy time is quiet as a Nun
Breathless with adoration; the broad sun
Is sinking down in its tranquillity;
The gentleness of heaven broods o'er the Sea:
Listen! the mighty Being is awake,
And doth with his eternal motion make
A sound like thunder - everlastingly.
Dear Child! dear Girl! that walkest with me here,
If thou appear untouched by solemn thought,
Thy nature is not therefore less divine:
Thou liest in Abraham's bosom all the year;
And worshipp'st at the Temple's inner shrine,
God being with thee when we know it not.

William Wordsworth

1.
 - (a) What words suggest the presence of God in the first eight lines of this sonnet? (10)
 - (b) "The poem gives us a sense of a beautiful calm evening."
Do you agree? Explain your answer. (10)
 - (c) How does Wordsworth feel about the child in the poem? Refer to the poem in your answer. (10)

2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) From your reading of this poem, what things are important to Wordsworth? Support your response with reference to the poem.

OR
 - (ii) You have been asked to suggest a poem for a collection called "Peaceful Moments". Say why you would choose this poem.

OR
 - (iii) This poem was written around 200 years ago. Do you think it is still worth reading? Explain why or why not.

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