



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2008

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Thursday 5 June – Morning, 9.30 – 12.50

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 **WUTHERING HEIGHTS** - Emily Brontë

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe how the relationship between Catherine and Hareton develops in the period after the death of Heathcliff. (10)
- (b) Mr Lockwood is attracted to Catherine Linton. Do you think that Mr Lockwood would have been a suitable husband for the younger Catherine? Explain your answer. (10)
2. “*Thrushcross Grange is my own, sir...*” declares Heathcliff to Mr Lockwood at the beginning of the novel. Explain how he came to own Thrushcross Grange. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Write a piece, starting with **one** of the following statements:
 - *I would like to live in the society of Wuthering Heights because...*
 - *I would prefer to live in the society of Thrushcross Grange because...*

OR

- (ii) “Most of the people in ‘*Wuthering Heights*’ would be impossible to live with.” Choose **one** character from the novel and explain why you would **or** would not find that character impossible to live with.

OR

- (iii) Imagine that you are Heathcliff on the day before he dies. Write a diary entry in which he reveals some of his thoughts about his life.

B **THE REMAINS OF THE DAY** - Kazuo Ishiguro

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) From your knowledge of the novel, what kind of person do you think Lord Darlington is? Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) Do you think that Stevens’ life-time service to Lord Darlington was worthwhile? Explain your answer. (10)
2. How would you describe the way Stevens treats his father? Explain your answer. (10)

B (Continued)

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

- (i) At the end of the novel, a retired butler says to Stevens:
“The evening’s the best part of the day.”
Explain why you think Stevens would **or** would not enjoy being retired from service as a butler.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece beginning with the following statement:

The world of Darlington Hall appeals/does not appeal to me because...

OR

- (iii) Imagine that you are Miss Kenton. Write a letter to a friend describing your relationship with Stevens.

C **HOW MANY MILES TO BABYLON?** - Jennifer Johnston

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Alec admits that he lacked ‘team spirit’.
Do you think that he would have been a more successful person if he had been sent to school? Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) Describe what happened on the last evening/night before Alec and Jerry joined the army. (10)

2. Describe a pleasant **or** a disturbing event in the novel and explain why you found it so. (10)

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

- (i) Major Glendinning has been asked to write a report recording his opinion of Alec Moore after Alec has been executed.
Write that report.

OR

- (ii) *“How Many Miles to Babylon?”* is a great read.”
Write an article for a magazine, in which you support or oppose the above view of the novel.

OR

- (iii) Imagine that you are **either** Alec **or** Jerry. Write the letter that you would send to **either** your mother **or** father describing your war experience.



D DEATH AND NIGHTINGALES - Eugene McCabe

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe Beth's first meeting with Liam Ward, when they attempt to save the cow in the bog-hole. (10)
- (b) Do you think Liam Ward deserved what happened to him at the end of the novel? Explain your answer. (10)
2. There are many violent moments in the novel. Describe one that you found especially so. Explain your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Write a piece about *Death and Nightingales* beginning with one of the following statements:
 - *I would find it difficult to live in such a society because...*
 - *Despite the difficulties in this society, I would find it interesting to live there because...*

OR

- (ii) Beth has been charged with the murder of Liam Ward. Write the speech you would make to the court, **either** defending **or** prosecuting her.

OR

- (iii) A Leaving Certificate student said: "I found that reading *Death and Nightingales* was a very gloomy experience." Write a piece in which you agree **or** disagree with this statement.

E THE CRUCIBLE - Arthur Miller

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) What is your opinion of Abigail Williams? Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) "Tituba's story is a very sad one."
Would you agree **or** disagree with this viewpoint? Explain your answer. (10)
2. Describe a moment from the play that you found especially gripping. Explain why you found it so. (10)

E (Continued)

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

- (i) “Elizabeth Proctor is a good and honourable woman.”
Write your response to this statement based on your knowledge of the play.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece in which you explain why you would, **or** would not like to live in the society of Salem as it is portrayed in the play.

OR

- (iii) You are a reporter with a Boston newspaper. You have been sent by your editor to report on the trials at Salem. Write that report for your newspaper. You may report on the trials in general, **or** on one trial in particular.

F **LIES OF SILENCE** - Brian Moore

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Having studied the novel *Lies of Silence*, do you think Michael Dillon was a hero **or** a coward? Explain your answer. (10)

- (b) What is your opinion of Father Connolly? Explain your answer. (10)

2. “*The first time he ever saw her was in the hotel.*”
Describe that first meeting between Michael and Andrea and briefly outline how their relationship develops. (10)

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

- (i) Moira tells the story of her own and Michael’s experience at the hands of the I.R.A. because:
- she wants to stand up to the I.R.A.
 - she wants to take vengeance on Michael for his affair with Andrea.
 - she wants publicity for herself.
- Which of the above do you think is the most likely reason for her decision to speak on television? Support your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Imagine that you are a reporter for the local television station. Write the report that you would deliver to camera on the evening news about the bombing of the Clarence Hotel.

OR

- (iii) You are making a film of the novel *Lies of Silence*. Choose a moment from the novel that you found full of excitement and suspense and explain how you would convey it to a cinema-going public.



G THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS - Sean O'Casey

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Choose an incident in the relationship between Jack and Nora. Explain what that incident tells us about the nature of their relationship. (10)
- (b) How would you describe the relationship between Bessie Burgess and Nora? Explain your answer. (10)
2. "The Covey is a *very* annoying man."
What do you think are his most annoying features?
Explain your answer. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) You have been asked to play Jack Clitheroe in your school's production of the play.
Explain how you would present his character to an audience.
OR
 - (ii) "Mollser's story tells us of the awful living conditions in Dublin in 1916."
Write the letter she might send to a newspaper describing these conditions and outlining the improvements she would wish to see.
OR
 - (iii) Choose the episode in the play which you found funniest. Explain why you found it to be so. Support your answer with references to the play.

H OTHELLO - William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Do you feel sorry for Brabantio, Desdemona's father, when he learns that she has married Othello? Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) From your reading of the play, why do you think Desdemona falls in love with Othello? Explain your answer. (10)
2. "*Yet she must die, else she'll betray more men.*"
Describe the murder of Desdemona by Othello in Act 5, scene 2. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) At the very end of the play, Lodovico describes Iago as a *hellish villain*. Do you think this is a fair description of Iago? Support your answer with reference to the play.

OR

H (Continued)

- (ii) You have been invited to play the part of a character in a production of the play *Othello*. Describe the qualities of your chosen character which you would wish to make clear to your audience.
Support your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (iii) Write a report putting forward the view that *Othello* is, **or** is not, a suitable text for Leaving Certificate candidates.

I THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST - Oscar Wilde

Answer **all** the questions.

1. (a) Lady Bracknell interviews Jack in Act 1 to see if he would be a suitable husband for Gwendolen. What does she find suitable about him and what unsuitable? (10)
- (b) In the very last line of the play, Jack says ...
“...I’ve now realised for the first time in my life the vital Importance of Being Earnest.”
Explain how he finds out that his name is really Ernest. (10)
2. Explain why you would **or** would not like to count Algernon Moncrieff among your close friends. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
- (i) In Act I, Jack says to Algernon...
“...Cecily and Gwendolen are perfectly certain to be extremely great friends. I’ll bet you anything you like that half an hour after they have met, they will be calling each other sister.”
Describe (a) the meeting between Cecily and Gwendolen in the garden of the Manor House, Woolton and (b) briefly comment on how their relationship develops during the remainder of the play.

OR

- (ii) In Act 3, Lady Bracknell says:
“Never speak disrespectfully of Society, Algernon. Only people who can’t get into it do that.”
In the play, Wilde makes fun of every aspect of this Society: class, marriage, wealth, relationships, religion, friendship and death. Comment on how he treats **two** of these humorously. Support your answer with relevant references to the text.

OR

- (iii) “Dear Oscar...”
Write a letter to Wilde explaining why you did **or** did not enjoy his play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*.



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**.

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 RELATIONSHIPS

1. (a) “Relationships can be very complicated.”
Describe a relationship which you have studied in one of the texts on your comparative course, and explain why you found it to be complicated. (30)
- (b) Choose a relationship from another text on your comparative course and explain why you found this relationship more **or** less complicated than the one you described in (a).
Remember to refer to both relationships in the course of your answer. (40)

OR

2. (a) Briefly describe a relationship from each of **two** of the three texts you have studied on your comparative course. (30)
- (b) Explain why you think one of the relationships you described in (a) is more successful than the other.
Remember to refer to both relationships in the course of your answer. (40)

B SOCIAL SETTING

1. (a) “A person is often greatly influenced by his or her social setting.”
Show how the social setting greatly influences a character in one of the texts on your comparative study. (30)
- (b) From one of the other texts studied on your comparative course, choose a character and show how, in your opinion, this character is influenced to a greater or lesser degree by his/her social setting than the one dealt with in (a) above.
Remember to refer to both social settings in the course of your answer. (40)

OR

2. (a) Briefly describe the social setting of **two** of the three texts you have studied on your comparative course. (30)
- (b) Write a piece in which you compare and/or contrast the two social settings described in (a) explaining why you found one social setting more appealing than the other.
Remember to refer to both social settings in the course of your answer.(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 the following poem and the two questions on it at least twice before writing your answers.

SEAGULL

We are the dawn marauders.* *(raiders/robbers)
We prey on pizza. We kill kebabs.
We mug thrushes for bread crusts
with a snap of our big bent beaks.
We drum the worms from the ground
with the stamp of our wide webbed feet.
We spread out, cover the area –
like cops looking for the body
of a murdered fish-supper.
Here we go with our hooligan yells
loud with gluttony, sharp with starvation.
Here we go bungee-jumping on the wind,
charging from the cold sea of our birth.
This is invasion. This is occupation.
Our flags are black, white and grey.
Our wing-stripes are our rank.
No sun can match the brazen
colour of our mad yellow eyes.

We are the seagulls.
We are the people.

Brian McCabe

1. In this poem the poet vividly describes the actions and conduct of seagulls. Choose **two** of these descriptions which appeal to you most. Explain your choices. (10)
2. *We are the seagulls.*
We are the people.

From your reading of the poem, what similarities do you think the poet draws between seagulls and humans? Explain your answer. (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A PHENOMENAL WOMAN

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion
model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
The palm of my hand,
The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Maya Angelou

1. (a) From your reading of Stanza 1 (lines 1 – 14) what, according to the poet, is her secret for women? (10)
- (b) “*Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.*”
What answer does the poet give to the men in Stanza 3 (lines 31 – 46)? (10)
- (c) Having studied the poem, do you think the poet is a ‘*Phenomenal woman*’?
Explain your answer. (10)



A (Continued)

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

- (i) Did you enjoy reading this poem?
Write a piece where you give your views in response to this question.

OR

- (ii) This poem is about self-confidence. Choose two examples from the poem which you feel reveal this quality of self-confidence in a special way. Give reasons for your answer.

OR

- (iii) If you were to write a poem entitled 'Phenomenal Man', what qualities would you give that man?
(In writing your answer, you may, if you wish, present the male qualities as the female ones are presented in the last 9 lines of the poem,

*"I say,
It's in the...
That's me."*)

B ANTARCTICA

(for Richard Ryan)

'I am just going outside and may be some time.'
The others nod, pretending not to know.
At the heart of the ridiculous, the sublime.

He leaves them reading and begins to climb,
Goaded his ghost into the howling snow;
He is just going outside and may be some time.

The tent recedes beneath its crust of rime
And frostbite is replaced by vertigo:
At the heart of the ridiculous, the sublime.

Need we consider it some sort of crime,
This numb self-sacrifice of the weakest? No,
He is just going outside and may be some time –

In fact, for ever. Solitary enzyme,
Though the night yield no glimmer there will glow,
At the heart of the ridiculous, the sublime.

He takes leave of the earthly pantomime
Quietly, knowing it is time to go.
'I am just going outside and may be some time.'
At the heart of the ridiculous, the sublime.

Derek Mahon

1. (a) A friend asks you to tell him/her what this poem is about.
Write what you would say. (10)
 - (b) Choose some words and phrases which you think create the sense of the terrible climate experienced by the explorers. Explain your choices. (10)
 - (c) *'I am just going outside and may be some time.'*

How does the poet show that Oates (the speaker of the first line of the poem) is moving further and further away from his companions in the tent?
Explain your answer. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Imagine that you are one of Oates's companions. Write what you would say to him in order to persuade him *not* to leave the tent.
OR
 - (ii) You are Edward Oates. Write the diary entry you would like to leave behind to explain your conduct in walking out into the snow to die.
OR
 - (iii) "The final four lines are the finest lines in the poem."
Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.



C GOING HOME TO MAYO, WINTER, 1949

Leaving behind us the alien, foreign city of Dublin,
My father drove through the night in an old Ford Anglia,
His five-year-old son in the seat beside him,
The rexine seat of red leatherette,
And a yellow moon peered in through the windscreen.
'Daddy, Daddy,' I cried, 'pass out the moon,'
But no matter how hard he drove he could not pass out the moon.
Each town we passed through was another milestone
And their names were magic passwords into eternity:
Kilcock, Kinnegad, Strokestown, Elphin,
Tarmonbarry, Tulsk, Ballaghaderreen, Ballavarry;
Now we were in Mayo and the next stop was Turlough,
The village of Turlough in the heartland of Mayo,
And my father's mother's house, all oil-lamps and women,
And my bedroom over the public bar below,
And in the morning cattle-cries and cock-crows:
Life's seemingly seamless garment gorgeously rent
By their screeches and bellowings. And in the evenings
I walked with my father in the high grass down by the river
Talking with him – an unheard-of thing in the city.

But home was not home and the moon could be no more outflanked
Than the daylight nightmare of Dublin City:
Back down along the canal we chugged into the city
And each lock-gate tolled our mutual doom;
And railings and palings and asphalt and traffic lights,
And blocks after blocks of so-called 'new' tenements –
Thousands of crosses of loneliness planted
In the narrowing grave of the life of the father;
In the wide, wide cemetery of the boy's childhood.

Paul Durcan

1. (a) What is the poet's attitude to Dublin city in this poem?
Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) His attitude to Mayo is very different. How is this shown in the poem? (10)
- (c) What do we learn about the relationship between father and son from the poem? Explain your answer. (10)

C (Continued)

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

- (i) Using one of these as an opening, write about the overall mood of the poem:
- *I think this is a happy poem because...*
 - *I think this is a sad poem because...*

OR

- (ii) Imagine that the poet keeps a diary. Write his diary entry at the end of his first day at his father's mother's house.

OR

- (iii) Pick out a couple of your favourite lines or images from the poem and explain why you like them.



D AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

Adrienne Rich

1. (a) Why in your opinion does the poet's aunt choose the theme of tigers for her screen?
Give a reason for your answer, based on your understanding of the poem. (10)
 - (b) *The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.*

What impression do you get of Aunt Jennifer's marriage from these lines?
Explain your answer. (10)
 - (c) Choose one of the following phrases which in your opinion best reveals the poet's attitude towards her aunt:
– *she admires her*
– *she pities her*
Explain your choice. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) This poem is full of movement and colour. Choose some words and phrases of both movement and colour which especially appeal to you. Explain your choices.

OR
 - (ii) "Adrienne Rich's poems are very gloomy".
Write a piece in which you agree **or** disagree with this statement. Your response should include some reference to **one** or **both** of the other Rich poems on your course – "*Storm Warnings*" and "*Power*".

OR
 - (iii) In this poem, the poet speaks **for** her Aunt Jennifer. Write a piece in which Aunt Jennifer tells her **own** story.
You may use the material in the poem to support your response.

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