



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2010

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Thursday, 10th 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 WUTHERING HEIGHTS - Emily Brontë

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe what happens when Mr Earnshaw brings Heathcliff home to Wuthering Heights. (10)

(b) Do you think that Catherine Earnshaw was right to marry Edgar Linton? Explain your answer. (10)

2. Do you like Nelly Dean? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

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

(i) Write a piece beginning with one of the following statements:

- I feel sorry for Heathcliff because ...
- I never really liked Heathcliff because ...

Your response should be based on your understanding of the novel.

OR

(ii) Choose the word you think best describes the atmosphere of this novel:

- mysterious
- chilling
- distressing
- shocking.

Explain your answer, based on your knowledge of the novel.

OR

(iii) Write the letter Mr Lockwood might have written to a friend telling him about the frightening night he spent as Heathcliff's guest in Wuthering Heights.

B DANCING AT LUGHNASA - Brian Friel

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) From your reading of the play, why do you think Fr Jack was sent home from Africa? (10)
- (b) Which of the Mundy sisters do you find most interesting? Explain your answer. (10)
2. Do you like Gerry Evans? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Write a piece about the play, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, beginning with one of the following statements:
 - I enjoyed studying this play because ...
 - I did not enjoy studying this play because ...

OR

- (ii) Write the letter Chris Mundy might have written to Gerry Evans, beginning with the following statement:

Dear Gerry,
I'm writing to you to explain why I won't marry you.

OR

- (iii) Imagine you are the Director of a school production of this play. Describe how you would like the stage-set to look.

C SIVE - John B. Keane

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe how Mena plans to arrange a match for Sive. (10)
- (b) Do you think that Mike, Mena's husband, is a weak man? Explain your answer. (10)
2. Do you like Sive's grandmother, Nanna Glavin? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

C (continued)

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

- (i) Do you agree that Thomasheen Sean Rua is an absolute scoundrel? Support your answer with reference to the play.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece beginning with one of the following statements:

- I feel sorry for Sive because ...
- I feel angry with Mena Glavin because ...

OR

- (iii) What arguments would you use to persuade Mena that she should allow Sive to marry Liam Scuab? Support your answer with reference to the text.

D LAMB - Bernard Mac Laverty

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Give a brief account of one issue raised by Br Benedict during his meeting with Br Sebastian at the beginning of the novel. (10)

- (b) Do you think Michael Lamb is a good man? Give a reason for your answer. (10)

2. Do you like Owen Kane? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

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

- (i) Although most of the novel is very sad, there are also happy or funny moments in it. Choose one such moment. Describe it and explain why you found it to be happy or funny.

OR

- (ii) Michael Lamb has been arrested for the murder of Owen Kane. You are to make a speech either defending **or** prosecuting him at his trial. Write the speech you would make.

OR

- (iii) Based on your knowledge of the text, suggest one thing that Michael Lamb could have done differently at any point during the novel that might have prevented the final tragedy.

E LIES OF SILENCE - Brian Moore

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the reactions of Michael and Moira when the IRA men enter their home. (10)
- (b) Michael telephones the emergency services with a warning about the bomb in the Clarence Hotel. Do you think he was right or wrong to do so? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
2. Do you like Andrea Baxter? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Do you think that *Lies of Silence* is an exciting book to read? In your answer you might consider some of the following: the background to the story, particular moments or incidents, suspense, tension, the conduct of particular characters, etc.

OR

- (ii) Moira Dillon is both an interesting and an independent character. Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (iii) Based on your knowledge of the text, write an article for a newspaper in which you report on the murder of Michael Dillon.

F PANTHER IN THE BASEMENT - Amos Oz

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe how Proffy and Sergeant Stephen Dunlop met for the first time. (10)
- (b) Do you think that Sergeant Dunlop is a kind and gentle man? Explain your answer. (10)
2. Do you like Proffy? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

F (continued)

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

- (i) Based on your reading of the novel, in what way does the British occupation of Palestine affect the lives of the people?

OR

- (ii) Imagine that it is the summer of 1947 and you have been to stay with Proffy. Write a letter to a friend describing his home, the community in which he lived and what was happening there, the people you met, etc.

OR

- (iii) You are making a film of the novel *Panther in the Basement*. Choose a scene or moment that you consider interesting or exciting. Explain what sound effects, scenery, camera shots, music, etc. you would use to convey that interest or excitement to your audience.

G KING LEAR - William Shakespeare

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) How does Cordelia upset her father at the beginning of the play? (10)

- (b) Do you think that King Lear was wise to banish Kent? Explain your answer. (10)

2. Do you like Edmund? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)

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

- (i) Based on your reading of the play, write a piece beginning with one of the following statements:

- this is a story about foolishness
- this is a story about love.

OR

- (ii) “*Sisters! Sisters! Shame of ladies!*”

This is Cordelia’s comment on her sisters, Goneril and Regan.

Describe the character and conduct of the two sisters.

Support your answer with reference to the play.

OR

- (iii) Which of the characters would you like to play in your school’s production of *King Lear*? Give reasons for your choice. Support your answer with reference to the play.

H THE GRAPES OF WRATH - John Steinbeck

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the occasion when Tom Joad, on his way home from McAlester Prison, meets Preacher Casy. (10)
- (b) Do you agree that the Joads were a happy family before their departure for California? Explain your answer. (10)
2. Do you like Preacher Casy? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Based on your knowledge of the novel, write a piece beginning with one of the following statements:
 - this is a book about injustice
 - this is a book about hope.

OR
 - (ii) Imagine you are a member of the Joad family travelling to California. Create two diary entries in which you write about your experiences on the journey.

OR
 - (iii) Do you like the ending of this novel? Give reasons for your answer.

I THE BLACKWATER LIGHTSHIP - Colm Tóibín

Answer **all** the questions.

1. (a) Briefly describe the party in Helen's house at the beginning of the novel. (10)
- (b) While walking on the beach, Paul tells Helen of his relationship with François. Write a brief account of that relationship as described by Paul. (10)
2. Do you like Lily Breen? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Create two diary entries in which Declan writes about important moments in his life.

OR
 - (ii) Do you agree that Helen O'Doherty is an unhappy character in this novel? Give reasons for your answer.

OR
 - (iii) "Dear Colm ..."
Write a letter to Colm Tóibín explaining why you did or did not enjoy his novel, *The Blackwater Lightship*.

SECTION II

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

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

A HERO/HEROINE/VILLAIN

*** Before beginning your answer to either of the two questions on HERO/HEROINE/VILLAIN, you should**

- name the texts studied for your comparative course
- name the hero/heroine/villain that you are going to discuss.

1. (a) Referring to **one** of the three texts you have studied in your comparative course, explain what made a central character (hero or heroine or villain) interesting for you. (30)
- (b) Choose a hero or heroine or villain from a second text you have studied. Discuss the similarities and differences between this character and the one you wrote about in 1(a) above. (40)

OR

2. (a) Imagine that a character from one of the three texts you have studied for your comparative course is invited to speak to your class. Write what this character might say, beginning:
“I am the hero/heroine/villain in this text because ...” (30)
- (b) Choose a different hero, heroine or villain from another text on your comparative course. Write about your **two** chosen characters, explaining the similarities and differences between them both. (40)

B THEME

*** Before beginning your answer to either of the two questions on THEME, you should**

- name the texts studied for your comparative course
- name a theme that you are going to discuss.

1. (a) As part of your comparative course you have studied the **same theme** in three different texts. With reference to **one** of these texts, explain what you learned about this theme. Support your answer with reference to your chosen text. (30)
- (b) Do you think that studying the same theme in two or more texts helped you to get a better understanding of that theme? Explain your answer with reference to the texts you have studied. (40)

OR

2. (a) i) Choose a key moment in one of the texts you have studied in your comparative course and describe how it reveals a significant theme in this text. (15)
- ii) Choose a key moment from a second text you have studied in your comparative course and describe how that key moment reveals the same theme in this text. (15)
- (b) Compare the similarities and differences between the two key moments described above to show how looking at more than one text can help us to better understand a theme. (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 about it at least twice before writing your answers.

Nettles

My son aged three fell in the nettle bed.
'Bed' seemed a curious name for those green spears
It was no place for rest. With sobs and tears
That regiment of spite behind the shed:
The boy came seeking comfort and I saw
White blisters beaded on his tender skin.
We soothed him till his pain was not so raw.
At last he offered us a watery grin,
And then I took my hook and honed* the blade (*Honed = sharpened)
And went outside and slashed in fury with it
Till not a nettle in that fierce parade
Stood upright anymore. Next task: I lit
A funeral pyre* to burn the fallen dead. (*Funeral pyre = a fire to burn the dead)
But in two weeks the busy sun and rain
Had called up tall recruits behind the shed:
My son would often feel sharp wounds again.

Vernon Scannell



1. What impression of the nettles do you get from this poem?
Give a reason for your answer. (10)
2. What do you think the poet means by the last line of the poem? (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A FOR HEIDI WITH BLUE HAIR

When you dyed your hair blue
(or, at least ultramarine
for the clipped sides, with a crest
of jet-black spikes on top)
you were sent home from school

because, as the headmistress put it,
although dyed hair was not
specifically forbidden, yours
was, apart from anything else,
not done in the school colours.

Tears in the kitchen, telephone-calls
to school from your freedom-loving father:
'She's not a punk in her behaviour;
it's just a style.' (You wiped your eyes,
also not in a school colour.)

'She discussed it with me first –
we checked the rules.' 'And anyway, Dad,
it cost twenty-five dollars.
Tell them it won't wash out –
not even if I wanted to try.'

It would have been unfair to mention
your mother's death, but that
shimmered behind the arguments.
The school had nothing else against you;
the teachers twittered and gave in.

Next day your black friend had hers done
in grey, white and flaxen yellow –
the school colours precisely:
an act of solidarity, a witty
tease. The battle was already won.

Fleur Adcock



Fleur Adcock

1. (a) From your reading of this poem do you think the father and daughter have a good relationship? Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) Do you think this is a sad or funny poem or both? Explain your answer. (10)
- (c) Comment on the use of the underlined word in **one** of the following lines:
 - *your mother's death ... shimmered behind the arguments*
 - *the teachers twittered and gave in.*(10)



(continued)

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

- (i) From your reading of the poem whose side do you think Fleur Adcock is on? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

- (ii) Imagine Heidi, now twenty years older, finds a photograph of herself as a teenager with blue hair. Write a piece beginning with one of the following statements:

- I can't believe I did such a thing.
- I'm so glad I did that.

OR

- (iii) What is your view on the action taken by Heidi's friend in the last stanza of the poem? You might consider why she took this action, what effect her action might have had on Heidi, how the school might have reacted to this development, etc.

B MY FATHER PERCEIVED AS A VISION OF ST FRANCIS

for Brendan Kennelly

It was the piebald horse in next door's garden
frightened me out of a dream
with her dawn whinny. I was back
in the boxroom of the house,
my brother's room now,
full of ties and sweaters and secrets.
Bottles chinked on the doorstep,
the first bus pulled up to the stop.
The rest of the house slept

except for my father. I heard
him rake the ash from the grate,
plug in the kettle, hum a snatch of a tune.
Then he unlocked the back door
And stepped out into the garden.

Autumn was nearly done, the first frost
whitened the slates of the estate.
He was older than I had reckoned,
his hair completely silver,
and for the first time I saw the stoop
of his shoulder, saw that
his leg was stiff. What's he at?
So early and still stars in the west?

They came then: birds
of every size, shape, colour; they came
from the hedges and shrubs,
from eaves and garden sheds,
from the industrial estate, outlying fields,
from Dubber Cross they came
and the ditches of the North Road.

The garden was a pandemonium
when my father threw up his hands
and tossed the crumbs to the air. The sun
cleared O'Reilly's chimney
and he was suddenly radiant,
a perfect vision of St Francis,
made whole, made young again,
in a Finglas garden.

Paula Meehan



Paula Meehan

1. (a) What details in stanzas 1 and 2 (lines 1 – 14) of this poem create the sense of early morning in Finglas? Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) What impression do we get of the poet's father in stanza 3 (lines 15-22)? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- (c) From your reading of the poem what do you think are the poet's feelings towards her father? Explain your answer. (10)

(continued)

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

- (i) Imagine that Paula Meehan's father kept a diary. Write a diary entry in which he expresses his thoughts and feelings about feeding the birds at dawn.

OR

- (ii) You decide to create a short video to capture the atmosphere of this poem. Describe how you might use location, lighting, soundtrack, music, etc. to communicate this.

OR

- (iii) "This poem celebrates the simple things in life." Do you agree? Write a short piece explaining your point of view with reference to the poem.

C AUNT HELEN

Miss Helen Slingsby was my maiden aunt,
And lived in a small house near a fashionable square
Cared for by servants to the number of four.
Now when she died there was silence in heaven
And silence at her end of the street.
The shutters were drawn and the undertaker wiped his feet –
He was aware that this sort of thing had occurred before.
The dogs were handsomely provided for,
But shortly afterwards the parrot died too.
The Dresden clock continued ticking on the mantelpiece,
And the footman sat upon the dining-table
Holding the second housemaid on his knees –
Who had always been so careful while her mistress lived.

T.S.Eliot



T.S. Eliot

1. (a) From your reading of the poem, describe the sort of lifestyle you think Miss Helen Slingsby had. (10)
 - (b) Of the three phrases below choose the one which, in your opinion, best describes the poet's reaction to his aunt's death:
 - he is upset
 - he doesn't care
 - he is disappointedExplain your choice. (10)
 - (c) Do you think this poem is serious or humorous or both? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
- (i) Imagine you are the footman in this poem. Write a letter to your friend in which you record your thoughts about having worked for Miss Slingsby and how you feel about her death.
- OR**
- (ii) Choose **two** words or phrases from the poem which you found especially appealing and explain why you found them to be so.
- OR**
- (iii) Having studied this poem your class has decided to make a video version for YouTube.
Describe what your finished video would be like.

D THE WILD SWANS AT COOLE

The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

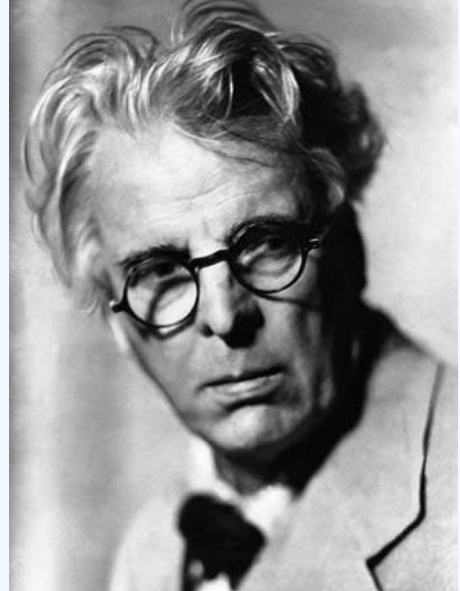
The nineteenth autumn has come upon me
Since I first made my count;
I saw, before I had well finished,
All suddenly mount
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings
Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trode with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water,
Mysterious, beautiful;
Among what rushes will they build,
By what lake's edge or pool
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day
To find they have flown away?

W.B. Yeats



W.B. Yeats

1. (a) According to Yeats, what qualities do the swans at Coole Park possess? Explain your answer. (10)
- (b) Which is your favourite stanza in this poem? Explain why you like it. (10)
- (c) This poem presents many pictures (images) to the reader. Choose two which appeal to you and explain why you find them appealing. [You may not choose images from the same stanza that you wrote about in 1(b) above] (10)

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

- (i) Based on this poem write an article for a travel magazine in which you encourage tourists to visit Coole Park.

OR

- (ii) *I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.*
From your reading of the poem explain why the poet feels like this.

OR

- (iii) There are two other poems by W.B. Yeats on your course, *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* and *An Irish Airman Foresees his Death*. Which of these two poems appeals to you more? Give reasons for your answer.

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