



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2019

## English - Higher Level - Paper 2

**Total Marks: 200**

**Thursday, 6 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
- **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 (*Macbeth, The Tempest*).

### INDEX OF SINGLE TEXTS

<i>Americanah</i>	Page - 2
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<i>Persuasion</i>	Page - 2
<i>By the Bog of Cats</i>	Page - 3
<i>Macbeth</i>	Page - 3

## SECTION I

## THE SINGLE TEXT

(60 marks)

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

### A **AMERICANAH** – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

- (i) Identify and discuss a variety of insights you gained into the subject of identity through your engagement with Adichie’s novel, *Americanah*. Develop your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) “The female characters in Adichie’s novel, *Americanah*, fail each other.”

Based on your reading of the novel, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Explain your answer, giving reasons for your response. Develop your answer with reference to Adichie’s novel, *Americanah*.

### B **THE HANDMAID’S TALE** – Margaret Atwood

- (i) Identify and discuss a variety of insights you gained into the subject of identity through your engagement with Atwood’s novel, *The Handmaid’s Tale*. Develop your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) “The female characters in Atwood’s novel, *The Handmaid’s Tale*, fail each other.”

Based on your reading of the novel, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Explain your answer, giving reasons for your response. Develop your answer with reference to Atwood’s novel, *The Handmaid’s Tale*.

### C **PERSUASION** – Jane Austen

- (i) Identify and discuss a variety of insights you gained into the subject of identity through your engagement with Austen’s novel, *Persuasion*. Develop your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) “The female characters in Austen’s novel, *Persuasion*, fail each other.”

Based on your reading of the novel, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Explain your answer, giving reasons for your response. Develop your answer with reference to Austen’s novel, *Persuasion*.

**D BY THE BOG OF CATS – Marina Carr**

- (i) Discuss the reasons why, in your opinion, Marina Carr’s use of a variety of horrific, bizarre and unbelievable elements does or does not heighten the tragic intensity of her play, *By the Bog of Cats*. Develop your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) Discuss how Marina Carr uses language to create dark comedy and add a poetic quality to her play, *By the Bog of Cats*. Develop your answer with reference to the text.

**E MACBETH – William Shakespeare**

- (i) Discuss the reasons why, in your opinion, Shakespeare’s use of a variety of horrific, bizarre and unbelievable elements does or does not heighten the tragic intensity of his play, *Macbeth*. Develop your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) Discuss how Shakespeare’s use of language, including imagery, plays an important part in developing our understanding of **one** of the following aspects of his play, *Macbeth*: themes; characterisation; setting and atmosphere. Develop your answer with reference to the text.

## SECTION II THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from **either A – General Vision and Viewpoint or B – Literary Genre**.

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.

Please note:

- Questions in this section use the word **text** to refer to all the different kinds of texts available for study on this course.
- When used, the word **reader** includes viewers of films and theatre audiences.
- When used, the term **technique** is understood to include techniques employed by all writers and directors of films.
- When used, the word **author** is understood to include all writers and directors of films.
- When used, the word **character** is understood to refer to both real people and fictional characters in texts.

### A GENERAL VISION AND VIEWPOINT

1. "Our personal beliefs – our views and values – can influence our sense of the general vision and viewpoint of a text."

- (a) With reference to **one** text on your comparative course, explain how your sense of the general vision and viewpoint was influenced by at least one of your personal beliefs. Develop your response with reference to the text. (30)
- (b) Compare how your sense of the general vision and viewpoint in each of **two other** comparative texts was influenced by at least one of your personal beliefs. Develop your response with reference to your chosen texts.

In response to 1. (b) you may refer to the same or different personal belief(s) that you referred to in 1. (a) above. You may refer to the same personal belief or different personal beliefs in relation to each of your two other comparative texts. (40)

OR

2. "Our view of the personal integrity of a central character can help to shape our impression of the general vision and viewpoint of a text."

Compare the extent to which your view of the personal integrity of one central character, in each of **three** texts on your comparative course, helped to shape your impression of the general vision and viewpoint of your chosen texts. Develop your answer with reference to the texts. (70)

**B LITERARY GENRE**

1. (a) Discuss how effectively two techniques are used to provide insight(s) into the mindset of a central character in **one** text on your comparative course. Develop your answer with reference to the text. (30)

(b) Compare how effectively at least one technique is used to provide insight(s) into the mindset of a central character in each of **two other** texts on your comparative course. Develop your answer with reference to your chosen texts.

In response to 1. (b) you may refer to the same technique or different techniques in relation to each of your chosen texts. You may refer to the same or different techniques to those you referred to in 1. (a) above. (40)

**OR**

2. Compare how mood or atmosphere is created in each of **three** texts on your comparative course. Refer to at least one technique used to create mood or atmosphere in each of your chosen texts. Develop your answer with reference to your chosen texts.

You may refer to the same technique or different techniques in each of your chosen texts. (70)

## SECTION III

## POETRY

(70 marks)

Candidates must answer **A** – Unseen Poem **and** **B** – Prescribed Poetry.

### **A UNSEEN POEM** (20 marks)

Read the following poem, written by Carol Ann Duffy to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One.

Answer **either** Question **1** **or** Question **2** which follow.

#### ***The Wound in Time***

It is the wound in Time. The century's tides,  
chanting their bitter psalms, cannot heal it.  
Not the war to end all wars; death's birthing place;  
the earth nursing its ticking metal eggs, hatching  
new carnage. But how could you know, brave  
as belief as you boarded the boats, singing?  
The end of God in the poisonous, shrapneled air.  
Poetry gargling its own blood. We sense it was love  
you gave your world for; the town squares silent,  
awaiting their cenotaphs\*. What happened next?  
War. And after that? War. And now? War. War.  
History might as well be water, chastising this shore;  
for we learn nothing from your endless sacrifice.  
Your faces drowning in the pages of the sea.

*Carol Ann Duffy*

\* *Cenotaph – war memorial*

1. (a) Discuss the appropriateness of the title, "The Wound in Time". In your response, make detailed reference to the words chosen by the poet for the title. Develop your answer with reference to the poem as a whole. (10)
- (b) Choose two images from the poem that you find particularly effective in capturing the horror of war and explain why you find these images particularly effective for this purpose. (10)

**OR**

2. Explain how language is used effectively to maximise the emotional impact of this poem. Make detailed reference to the use of language for this purpose in the poem. (20)

## **B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)**

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

**1. Brendan Kennelly**

Discuss how Kennelly's sensitive exploration of a range of emotions, and his imaginative use of a variety of characters, help to reveal the humanity intrinsic to his work. Develop your response with reference to the poems by Brendan Kennelly on your course.

**2. Elizabeth Bishop**

“Bishop makes skillful use of a variety of poetic techniques to produce poems that are often analytical but rarely emotional.”

Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the above statement. Develop your response with reference to the poems by Elizabeth Bishop on your course.

**3. W.B. Yeats**

“Yeats's poetry is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally charged.”

Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the above statement. Develop your response with reference to the themes and language evident in the poems by W. B. Yeats on your course.

**4. Sylvia Plath**

Discuss how effectively Plath uses a range of images to develop her themes and add drama to her poetry. Develop your response with reference to the poems by Sylvia Plath on your course.

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

**English**

Thursday 6 June

Afternoon 2.00 – 5.20