



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2019

English - Ordinary 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
- **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 AMERICANAH – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe Ifemelu’s life in Nigeria before she left to study in America. (10)

(b) Identify one challenge Ifemelu faces when she moves to America and explain how she responds to this challenge. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)

2. Explain the main reason why you did or did not enjoy the ending of the novel, *Americanah*. (10)

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

(i) Based on events in the novel, *Americanah*, write a front-page newspaper article beginning with the following headline:

“IMMIGRATION FRAUD FAILS – FAKE MARRIAGE PLANS EXPOSED”

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the novel.

OR

(ii) Write a piece in which you compare Ifemelu’s experience as an immigrant in America with Obinze’s experience as an immigrant in England. Support your answer with reference to the novel, *Americanah*.

OR

(iii) Identify two developments in the plot that contributed to your enjoyment of Adichie’s novel, *Americanah*. Explain why these developments contributed to your enjoyment of the novel. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

B**THE HANDMAID'S TALE – Margaret Atwood**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe Offred's life before the Republic of Gilead was established. (10)
- (b) Identify one challenge Offred faces when she becomes a handmaid and explain how she responds to this challenge. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Explain the main reason why you do or do not agree that the "Historical Notes" are an effective way to end the novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) Based on events in the novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*, write a front-page newspaper article beginning with the following headline:

"AUNT ASSAULTED AS WOMAN ESCAPES FROM RED CENTRE"

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the novel.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece in which you compare how Offred and Moira deal with life in the Republic of Gilead. Support your answer with reference to the novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*.

OR

- (iii) Identify two developments in the plot that contributed to your enjoyment of Atwood's novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*. Explain why these developments contributed to your enjoyment of the novel. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

C**PERSUASION – Jane Austen**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the problems facing Sir Walter Elliot at the beginning of the novel. (10)
- (b) Identify one challenge Anne faces when Captain Wentworth re-enters her life and explain how she responds to this challenge. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Explain the main reason why you did or did not enjoy the ending of the novel, *Persuasion*. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Based on events in the novel, *Persuasion*, write an article suitable for publication in a popular magazine beginning with the following title:

“TRUE LOVE TRIUMPHS IN THE END!”

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the novel.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece in which you compare Anne’s two suitors, Captain Wentworth and Mr. William Elliot, and the sincerity of each man’s affection for Anne. Support your answer with reference to the novel, *Persuasion*.

OR

- (iii) Identify two developments in the plot that contributed to your enjoyment of Austen’s novel, *Persuasion*. Explain why these developments contributed to your enjoyment of the novel. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

D**BY THE BOG OF CATS – Marina Carr**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe Hester’s disturbing experiences in the snow at the beginning of the play. (10)
- (b) Identify one challenge Hester faces due to Carthage’s marriage to Caroline and explain how she responds to this challenge. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Explain the main reason why you did or did not enjoy the ending of the play, *By the Bog of Cats*. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) Based on events in the play, *By the Bog of Cats*, write a front-page newspaper article beginning with the following headline:

“HOUSE FIRE ON THE BOG OF CATS”

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the play.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece in which you compare Carthage’s relationship with Hester and his relationship with Caroline. Support your answer with reference to the play, *By the Bog of Cats*.

OR

- (iii) Identify two developments in the plot that add to the drama in Marina Carr’s play, *By the Bog of Cats*. Explain why you think these developments add to the drama in the play. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

E**ROOM – Emma Donoghue**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe how Ma tried to make life normal for Jack while they lived in Room. (10)
- (b) Identify one challenge Jack faces when he leaves Room and explain how he responds to this challenge. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Explain the main reason why you did or did not enjoy the ending of the novel, *Room*. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
 - (i) Based on events in the novel, *Room*, write a front-page newspaper article beginning with the following headline:

“BRAVE BOY HELPS POLICE FREE MISSING MOTHER”

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the novel.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece in which you compare how well Ma copes with the difficulties she faces while held captive in Room with how well she copes with the difficulties she faces after she escapes. Support your answer with reference to the novel, *Room*.

OR

- (iii) Identify two developments in the plot that contributed to your enjoyment of Emma Donoghue’s novel, *Room*. Explain why these developments contributed to your enjoyment of the novel. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

F**THE GREAT GATSBY – F. Scott Fitzgerald**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the relationship between Tom Buchanan and his wife, Daisy, at the beginning of the novel. (10)
- (b) Identify one challenge Gatsby faces in his relationship with Daisy and explain how he responds to this challenge. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Explain the main reason why you did or did not enjoy the ending of the novel, *The Great Gatsby*. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) Based on events in the novel, *The Great Gatsby*, write a front-page newspaper article beginning with the following headline:

“SHOCK AS MYSTERIOUS MILLIONAIRE FOUND DEAD”

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the novel.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece in which you compare your initial impression of Jay Gatsby, with your view of him by the end of the novel, *The Great Gatsby*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (iii) Identify two developments in the plot that contributed to your enjoyment of Fitzgerald’s novel, *The Great Gatsby*. Explain why these developments contributed to your enjoyment of the novel. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

G**THE SPINNING HEART – Donal Ryan**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe two effects of the economic crash evident in the novel, *The Spinning Heart*. (10)
- (b) Identify one challenge Bobby Mahon faces after the economic crash and explain how he responds to this challenge. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Explain the main reason why you were or were not satisfied with how the novel ended for Bobby Mahon. (10)

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

- (i) Based on events in the novel, *The Spinning Heart*, write a front-page newspaper article beginning with the following headline:

“RELIEF AS MISSING CHILD LOCATED”

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the novel.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece in which you compare Bobby’s relationship with his wife, Triona, and Seanie’s relationship with Réaltín. Support your answer with reference to the novel, *The Spinning Heart*.

OR

- (iii) Identify two developments in the plot that contributed to your enjoyment of Donal Ryan’s novel, *The Spinning Heart*. Explain why these developments contributed to your enjoyment of the novel. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

H**MACBETH – William Shakespeare**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the effect the witches have on Macbeth when he first encounters them. (10)
- (b) Identify one challenge Macbeth faces when he becomes king and explain how he responds to this challenge. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Explain the main reason why you did or did not enjoy the ending of the play, *Macbeth*. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]

- (i) Based on events in the play, *Macbeth*, write a front-page newspaper article beginning with the following headline:

“NATION MOURNS AS KING DUNCAN SLAIN”

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the play.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece in which you compare your impression of the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth at the beginning of the play and your impression of their relationship by the end of the drama. Support your answer with reference to the play, *Macbeth*.

OR

- (iii) Identify two developments in the plot that add to the drama in Shakespeare’s play, *Macbeth*. Explain why you think these developments add to the drama in the play. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

I THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD – J.M. Synge

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Describe the relationship between Pegeen Mike and Shawn Keogh at the beginning of the play. (10)
- (b) Identify one challenge Shawn Keogh faces following the arrival of Christy Mahon and explain how Shawn responds to this challenge. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Explain the main reason why you did or did not enjoy the ending of the drama, *The Playboy of the Western World*. (10)

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

- (i) Based on events in the play, *The Playboy of the Western World*, write a front-page newspaper article beginning with the following headline:

“AMAZEMENT IN MAYO AS FATHER AND SON REUNITED”

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the play.

OR

- (ii) Write a piece in which you compare your initial impression of Christy Mahon, when he arrives in Mayo, with your view of Christy as he leaves Mayo at the end of the play. Support your answer with reference to the drama, *The Playboy of the Western World*.

OR

- (iii) Identify two developments in the plot that add to the drama in Synge’s play, *The Playboy of the Western World*. Explain why you think these developments add to the drama in the play. Your answer should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

SECTION II THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

Candidates must answer **ONE** question from **either A – Relationships or B – Theme**. 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. Questions use the word **text** to refer to all the different kinds of texts available for study on this course. Questions use the word **character** to refer to both real people and fictional characters in texts.

A RELATIONSHIPS

1. (a) (i) Name **one** of your three comparative texts and identify a relationship in it. Use one or more key moments to explain how the characters in this relationship did or did not support each other when faced with a problem, challenge or crisis in the text. Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Name **another** comparative text you have studied and identify a relationship in it. Use one or more key moments to explain how the characters in this relationship did or did not support each other when faced with a problem, challenge or crisis in the text. Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (b) Relationships often feature one main emotion (e.g. love, hatred, jealousy, etc.). Choose a relationship from each of **at least two** comparative texts you have studied, and compare these relationships with reference to the main emotion evident in each. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (40)

OR

2. (a) (i) Name **one** of your three comparative texts and identify a relationship in it. Explain whether this relationship is an equal partnership or is dominated by one character. Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Name **another** of your comparative texts and identify a relationship in it. Explain whether this relationship is an equal partnership or is dominated by one character. Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (b) Relationships often feature one main emotion (e.g. love, hatred, jealousy, etc.). Choose a relationship from each of **at least two** comparative texts you have studied, and compare these relationships with reference to the main emotion evident in each. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (40)

B THEME

1. (a) (i) Identify a theme you have studied as part of your comparative studies. You have been asked to give a talk to your class explaining how one or more key moments helped you to understand this theme in **one** of your three comparative texts. Write the text of the talk that you would give. (15)

- (ii) You have been asked to give a talk to your class explaining how one or more key moments helped you to understand the same theme in **another** text on your comparative course. Write the text of the talk that you would give. (15)

- (b) “We can find a theme to be more realistic and true-to-life in some texts than in others.”

In relation to the theme you discussed in part (a) above, compare how realistic and true-to-life you found this theme to be in **at least two** texts on your comparative course. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (40)

OR

2. (a) (i) Identify a theme you explored in **one** of the three comparative texts you have studied, and select a character who reveals something important to you about your chosen theme. Explain the way(s) in which your chosen character reveals something important about your chosen theme to you. (15)

- (ii) Choose a character from **another** comparative text you have studied and, with reference to the same theme you discussed in part (i), explain the way(s) in which your chosen character reveals something important about your chosen theme to you. (15)

- (b) “We can find a theme to be more realistic and true-to-life in some texts than in others.”

In relation to the theme you discussed in part (a) above, compare how realistic and true-to-life you found this theme to be in **at least two** texts on your comparative course. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (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)

In this poem, the poet, Elaine Feeney, shares a mother's thoughts about her relationship with her son, Jack.

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

JACK

You're six foot tall
with shoes that need
their own hanger
and hands that go on
forever. Our best days
are spent watching
Comedy Gold and
putting fried food
on the table to eat.
I try not to mention
grades, sex, the body
or how many times
a day you boil the kettle.
I make an effort
to follow the football
closely on local news
and wait for the
transfer markets
to open one –
sided chats. Hushed

monologues with
Ray go on forever
over talent and price
and my mood. This
year I will buy fifteen
blue and white
candy striped candles,
there will be no glitter,
I'll wonder who
deleted the years,
why they
passed so fast, scream
at you to tidy your room,
then squeeze
your narrow waist,
laugh at the cliché
we've both grown into,
thinking,
you'd be any club's
greatest investment.

Elaine Feeney

1. What do you learn about Jack from your reading of the above poem?
Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
2. Based on what the mother says in the above poem, do you think that she and Jack have a good relationship? Explain your response with reference to the poem. (10)

PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

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

A

BEGIN

Begin again to the summoning birds
to the sight of the light at the window,
begin to the roar of morning traffic
all along Pembroke Road.
Every beginning is a promise
born in light and dying in dark
determination and exaltation of springtime
flowering the way to work.
Begin to the pageant of queuing girls
the arrogant loneliness of swans in the canal
bridges linking the past and future
old friends passing through with us still.

Begin to the loneliness that cannot end
since it perhaps is what makes us begin,
begin to wonder at unknown faces
at crying birds in the sudden rain
at branches stark in the willing sunlight
at seagulls foraging for bread
at couples sharing a sunny secret
alone together while making good.
Though we live in a world that dreams of ending
that always seems about to give in
something that will not acknowledge conclusion
insists that we forever begin.

Brendan Kennelly

1. (a) Identify three images used by the poet in this poem. Which one of your chosen images do you find the most appealing? Explain your answer. (15)
- (b) In your opinion, is this an uplifting poem? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (15)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Imagine you are the poet, Brendan Kennelly. You have been invited to talk to a Leaving Certificate class about your poem, "Begin". In your talk you should point out the references to everyday life you have included in your poem, and help the class to understand the meaning of the poem. Write the text of the talk you would give, demonstrating your understanding of the poem.

OR

- (ii) Do you find this poem easy or difficult to understand? Explain your response, supporting your answer with reference to both the language and the content of the poem.

OR

- (iii) Do you think the poet makes effective use of the natural world to teach readers a valuable lesson or lessons in the above poem? Give reasons for your response. Support your answer with reference to the poem.

B**TO DAFFODILS**

Fair Daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.
Stay, stay,
Until the hasting day
Has run
But to the even-song;
And, having pray'd together, we
Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.
We die
As your hours do and, dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found again.

Robert Herrick

1. (a) Identify three images used by the poet in this poem. Which one of your chosen images do you find the most appealing? Explain your answer. (15)
- (b) In your opinion, is this an optimistic or a pessimistic poem? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (15)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Imagine you are the poet, Robert Herrick. You have been invited to talk to a Leaving Certificate class about your poem, "To Daffodils". In your talk you should explain how you suggest the rapid passage of time in the poem, and help the class to understand the meaning of the poem. Write the text of the talk you would give, demonstrating your understanding of the poem.

OR
 - (ii) Do you find this poem easy or difficult to understand? Explain your response, supporting your answer with reference to both the language and the content of the poem.

OR
 - (iii) Do you think the poet makes effective use of the natural world to teach readers a valuable lesson or lessons in the above poem? Give reasons for your response. Support your answer with reference to the poem.

C

THE FISH (EXTRACT: LINES 45 – 76)

I admired his sullen face,
the mechanism of his jaw,
and then I saw
that from his lower lip
– if you could call it a lip –
grim, wet, and weaponlike,
hung five old pieces of fish-line,
or four and a wire leader
with the swivel still attached,
with all their five big hooks
grown firmly in his mouth.
A green line frayed at the end
where he broke it, two heavier lines,
and a fine black thread
still crimped from the strain and snap
when it broke and he got away.

Like medals with their ribbons
frayed and wavering,
a five-haired beard of wisdom
trailing from his aching jaw.
I stared and stared
and victory filled up
the little rented boat,
from the pool of bilge
where oil had spread a rainbow
around the rusted engine
to the bailer rusted orange,
the sun-cracked thwarts,
the oarlocks on their strings,
the gunnels – and until everything
was rainbow, rainbow, rainbow!
And I let the fish go.

Elizabeth Bishop

1. (a) Identify three images used by the poet in this extract. Which one of your chosen images do you find the most appealing? Explain your answer. (15)
- (b) Do you find this extract from Bishop's poem "The Fish" joyful? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (15)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Imagine you are the poet, Elizabeth Bishop. You have been invited to talk to a Leaving Certificate class about the above extract from your poem, "The Fish". In your talk you should explain what takes place in the extract, and help the class to understand the meaning of the extract. Write the text of the talk you would give, demonstrating your understanding of the extract.

OR

- (ii) Do you find the above extract from "The Fish" easy or difficult to understand? Explain your response, supporting your answer with reference to both the language and the content of the extract.

OR

- (iii) Do you think the poet makes effective use of the natural world to teach readers a valuable lesson or lessons in the above extract? Give reasons for your response. Support your answer with reference to the extract from "The Fish".

D**DANIEL'S DUCK (EXTRACT: LINES 7 – 27)**

The children were sitting to their dinners.
Us too – drinking tea, hardly noticing
the child's quiet slide from his chair,
his small absorbed body before the duck's body,
the duck changing – feral, live –
arrowing up out of the black sloblands
with the gleam of a river
falling away below.

Then the duck – dead again – hanging from the drawer-knob,
the green head, brown neck running into the breast,
the intricate silvery-greyness of the back;
the wings, their white bars and blue flashes,
the feet, their snakey, orange scaliness, small claws, piteous webbing,
the yellow beak, blooded,
the whole like a weighted sack –
all that downward-dragginess of death.

He hovered, took a step forward, a step back,
something appeared in his face, some knowledge
of a place where he stood, the world stilled,
the lit streaks of sunrise running off red
into the high bowl of morning. *Kerry Hardie*

1. (a) Identify three images used by the poet in this extract. Which one of your chosen images do you find the most appealing? Explain your answer. (15)
- (b) Do you find this extract from Hardie's poem "Daniel's Duck" disturbing? Explain your answer with reference to the extract. (15)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
 - (i) Imagine you are the poet, Kerry Hardie. You have been invited to talk to a Leaving Certificate class about the above extract from your poem, "Daniel's Duck". In your talk you should explain what takes place in the extract, and help the class to understand the meaning of the extract. Write the text of the talk you would give, demonstrating your understanding of the extract.

OR
 - (ii) Do you find the above extract from "Daniel's Duck" easy or difficult to understand? Explain your response, supporting your answer with reference to both the language and the content of the extract.

OR
 - (iii) Do you think the poet makes effective use of the natural world to teach readers a valuable lesson or lessons in the above extract? Give reasons for your response. Support your answer with reference to the extract from "Daniel's Duck".

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Leaving Certificate – Ordinary Level

English

Thursday 6 June

Afternoon 2.00 – 5.20