



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2020

## English - Ordinary Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

Duration: 3 hours 20 minutes

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 THE HANDMAID'S TALE – Margaret Atwood

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify and describe a relationship between two characters in Margaret Atwood's novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*, in which conflict or tension is evident. (10)
- (b) Identify an episode or incident from the text which demonstrates the conflict or tension that arises in this relationship, and explain why you think this episode or incident is a good choice to demonstrate this aspect of the relationship. (10)
2. Explain whether, in your opinion, the conflict or tension in the relationship you identified above was or was not successfully resolved. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Explain three valuable lessons you learned about human nature from your study of Margaret Atwood's novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**
  - (ii) Identify three moments from the novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*, each of which captures a different aspect of Offred's character. Outline the insights you gained into Offred's character from each of the moments you have identified and explain how these insights affected your opinion of Offred. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**
  - (iii) A new film based on Margaret Atwood's novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*, is about to be released and you have been asked to produce a trailer\* to promote it. Using your knowledge of the novel, identify three moments from the story that you think should be included as clips in the trailer. Explain why you decided to include this particular material. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

\* *Trailer – a short advertising film*

**B****PERSUASION – Jane Austen**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify and describe a relationship between two characters in Jane Austen’s novel, *Persuasion*, in which conflict or tension is evident. (10)
- (b) Identify an episode or incident from the text which demonstrates the conflict or tension that arises in this relationship, and explain why you think this episode or incident is a good choice to demonstrate this aspect of the relationship. (10)
2. Explain whether, in your opinion, the conflict or tension in the relationship you identified above was or was not successfully resolved. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Explain three valuable lessons you learned about human nature from your study of Jane Austen’s novel, *Persuasion*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) Identify three moments from the novel, *Persuasion*, each of which captures a different aspect of Anne Elliot’s character. Outline the insights you gained into Anne Elliot’s character from each of the moments you have identified and explain how these insights affected your opinion of Anne. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (iii) A new film based on Jane Austen’s novel, *Persuasion*, is about to be released and you have been asked to produce a trailer\* to promote it. Using your knowledge of the novel, identify three moments from the story that you think should be included as clips in the trailer. Explain why you decided to include this particular material. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

\* *Trailer – a short advertising film*

**C****DAYS WITHOUT END – Sebastian Barry**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify and describe a conflict or tension evident in Sebastian Barry's novel, *Days Without End*. (10)
- (b) Identify an episode or incident from the text which demonstrates the conflict or tension that arises in this novel, and explain why you think this episode or incident is a good choice to demonstrate this aspect of the novel. (10)
2. Explain whether, in your opinion, the conflict or tension you identified in the novel was or was not successfully resolved. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Explain three valuable lessons you learned about human nature from your study of Sebastian Barry's novel, *Days Without End*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

  - (ii) Identify three moments from the novel, *Days Without End*, each of which captures a different aspect of Thomas McNulty's character. Outline the insights you gained into Thomas McNulty's character from each of the moments you have identified and explain how these insights affected your opinion of Thomas McNulty. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

  - (iii) A new film based on Sebastian Barry's novel, *Days Without End*, is about to be released and you have been asked to produce a trailer\* to promote it. Using your knowledge of the novel, identify three moments from the story that you think should be included as clips in the trailer. Explain why you decided to include this particular material. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

\* *Trailer – a short advertising film*

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

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify and describe a relationship between two characters in Marina Carr's play, *By the Bog of Cats*, in which conflict or tension is evident. (10)
- (b) Identify an episode or incident from the text which demonstrates the conflict or tension that arises in this relationship, and explain why you think this episode or incident is a good choice to demonstrate this aspect of the relationship. (10)
2. Explain whether, in your opinion, the conflict or tension in the relationship you identified above was or was not successfully resolved. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Explain three valuable lessons you learned about human nature from your study of Marina Carr's play, *By the Bog of Cats*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) Identify three moments from the play, *By the Bog of Cats*, each of which captures a different aspect of Hester Swane's character. Outline the insights you gained into Hester Swane's character from each of the moments you have identified and explain how these insights affected your opinion of Hester. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (iii) A new film based on Marina Carr's play, *By the Bog of Cats*, is about to be released and you have been asked to produce a trailer\* to promote it. Using your knowledge of the play, identify three moments from the drama that you think should be included as clips in the trailer. Explain why you decided to include this particular material. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

\* *Trailer – a short advertising film*

**E****ROOM – Emma Donoghue**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify and describe a relationship between two characters in Emma Donoghue’s novel, *Room*, in which conflict or tension is evident. (10)
- (b) Identify an episode or incident from the text which demonstrates the conflict or tension that arises in this relationship, and explain why you think this episode or incident is a good choice to demonstrate this aspect of the relationship. (10)
2. Explain whether, in your opinion, the conflict or tension in the relationship you identified above was or was not successfully resolved. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Explain three valuable lessons you learned about human nature from your study of Emma Donoghue’s novel, *Room*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**
  - (ii) Identify three moments from the novel, *Room*, each of which captures a different aspect of Ma’s character. Outline the insights you gained into Ma’s character from each of the moments you have identified and explain how these insights affected your opinion of Ma. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**
  - (iii) A new film based on Emma Donoghue’s novel, *Room*, is about to be released and you have been asked to produce a trailer\* to promote it. Using your knowledge of the novel, identify three moments from the story that you think should be included as clips in the trailer. Explain why you decided to include this particular material. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

\* *Trailer – a short advertising film*

**F****1984 – George Orwell**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify and describe a conflict or tension evident in George Orwell's novel, *1984*. (10)
- (b) Identify an episode or incident from the text which demonstrates the conflict or tension that arises in this novel, and explain why you think this episode or incident is a good choice to demonstrate this aspect of the novel. (10)
2. Explain whether, in your opinion, the conflict or tension you identified in the novel was or was not successfully resolved. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Explain three valuable lessons you learned about human nature from your study of George Orwell's novel, *1984*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) Identify three moments from the novel, *1984*, each of which captures a different aspect of Winston Smith's character. Outline the insights you gained into Winston Smith's character from each of the moments you have identified and explain how these insights affected your opinion of Winston. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (iii) A new film based on George Orwell's novel, *1984*, is about to be released and you have been asked to produce a trailer\* to promote it. Using your knowledge of the novel, identify three moments from the story that you think should be included as clips in the trailer. Explain why you decided to include this particular material. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

\* *Trailer – a short advertising film*

**G****HAMLET – William Shakespeare**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify and describe a relationship between two characters in Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*, in which conflict or tension is evident. (10)
- (b) Identify an episode or incident from the text which demonstrates the conflict or tension that arises in this relationship, and explain why you think this episode or incident is a good choice to demonstrate this aspect of the relationship. (10)
2. Explain whether, in your opinion, the conflict or tension in the relationship you identified above was or was not successfully resolved. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Explain three valuable lessons you learned about human nature from your study of Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) Identify three moments from the play, *Hamlet*, each of which captures a different aspect of Ophelia's character. Outline the insights you gained into Ophelia's character from each of the moments you have identified and explain how these insights affected your opinion of Ophelia. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (iii) A new film based on Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*, is about to be released and you have been asked to produce a trailer\* to promote it. Using your knowledge of the play, identify three moments from the drama that you think should be included as clips in the trailer. Explain why you decided to include this particular material. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

\* *Trailer – a short advertising film*



**H****THE TEMPEST – William Shakespeare**

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify and describe a relationship between two characters in Shakespeare's play, *The Tempest*, in which conflict or tension is evident. (10)
- (b) Identify an episode or incident from the text which demonstrates the conflict or tension that arises in this relationship, and explain why you think this episode or incident is a good choice to demonstrate this aspect of the relationship. (10)
2. Explain whether, in your opinion, the conflict or tension in the relationship you identified above was or was not successfully resolved. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Explain three valuable lessons you learned about human nature from your study of Shakespeare's play, *The Tempest*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) Identify three moments from the play, *The Tempest*, each of which captures a different aspect of Prospero's character. Outline the insights you gained into Prospero's character from each of the moments you have identified and explain how these insights affected your opinion of Prospero. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

- (iii) A new film based on Shakespeare's play, *The Tempest*, is about to be released and you have been asked to produce a trailer\* to promote it. Using your knowledge of the play, identify three moments from the drama that you think should be included as clips in the trailer, and explain why you decided to include this particular material. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

\* *Trailer – a short advertising film*

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

Answer **all** of the questions.

1. (a) Identify and describe a relationship between two characters in Synge’s play, *The Playboy of the Western World*, in which conflict or tension is evident. (10)
- (b) Identify an episode or incident from the text which demonstrates the conflict or tension that arises in this relationship, and explain why you think this episode or incident is a good choice to demonstrate this aspect of the relationship. (10)
2. Explain whether, in your opinion, the conflict or tension in the relationship you identified above was or was not successfully resolved. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
3. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 30 marks]
  - (i) Explain three valuable lessons you learned about human nature from your study of Synge’s play, *The Playboy of the Western World*. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

  - (ii) Identify three moments from the play, *The Playboy of the Western World*, each of which captures a different aspect of Pegeen Mike’s character. Outline the insights you gained into Pegeen’s character from each of the moments you have identified and explain how these insights affected your opinion of Pegeen. Support your answer with reference to the text.

**OR**

  - (iii) A new film based on Synge’s play, *The Playboy of the Western World*, is about to be released and you have been asked to produce a trailer\* to promote it. Using your knowledge of the play, identify three moments from the drama that you think should be included as clips in the trailer. Explain why you decided to include this particular material. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the text.

\* *Trailer – a short advertising film*

## SECTION II THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 MARKS)

Candidates must answer **ONE** question from **either A – Hero, Heroine, Villain or B – Social Setting**. 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 HERO, HEROINE, VILLAIN

1. (a) (i) Give the title of **one** of your three comparative texts and identify a hero, heroine or villain in it. Use one or more key moments to help you explain how this character reacted when faced with a difficult situation. (15)
- (ii) Give the title of **another** comparative text you have studied and identify a hero, heroine or villain in it. Use one or more key moments to help you explain how this character reacted when faced with a difficult situation. (15)
- (b) Identify an ambition, hope or dream that was important to one hero, heroine or villain from each of **at least two** texts on your comparative course. Compare the extent to which these characters achieved, or failed to achieve, their ambition, hope or dream. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (40)

OR

2. (a) (i) Give the title of **one** of your three comparative texts and identify a hero, heroine or villain in it. Explain why this character is or is not trusted by other characters in your chosen text. Support your response with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Give the title of **another** of your comparative texts and identify a hero, heroine or villain in it. Explain why this character is or is not trusted by other characters in your chosen text. Support your response with reference to the text. (15)
- (b) Identify an ambition, hope or dream that was important to one hero, heroine or villain from each of **at least two** texts on your comparative course. Compare the extent to which these characters achieved, or failed to achieve, their ambition, hope or dream. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (40)

## B SOCIAL SETTING

1. (a) (i) Name **one** of the three texts you have studied on your comparative course and identify one aspect of the social setting evident in this text. Describe at least one key moment that helped you to understand this aspect of the social setting and explain why your chosen moment or moments helped you in this way. (15)
- (ii) Name **another** text on your comparative course and identify one aspect of the social setting evident in this text. Describe at least one key moment that helped you to understand this aspect of the social setting and explain why your chosen moment or moments helped you in this way. (15)
- (b) Identify a central character in each of **at least two** texts on your comparative course. Compare the extent to which the social settings in these texts contributed to the happiness or unhappiness of the characters you have identified. Support your answer with reference to your chosen texts. (40)

OR

2. (a) (i) You have been asked to choose two objects for use in a presentation to your class about the social setting in **one** text on your comparative course. Identify the text, and explain what you intend your classmates to learn about the social setting in this text from the objects you have chosen. (15)
- (ii) You have been asked to choose two objects for use in a presentation to your class about the social setting in **another** text on your comparative course. Identify the text, and explain what you intend your classmates to learn about the social setting in this text from the objects you have chosen. (15)
- (b) Identify a central character in each of **at least two** texts on your comparative course. Compare the extent to which the social settings in these texts contributed to the happiness or unhappiness of the characters you have identified. 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)

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

#### MURMURATION\*

Cold morning, November, taking a walk,  
when up ahead, suddenly, the trees unleave,  
and thousands of starlings lift off, an immense  
river of noise; they braid and unbraid themselves  
over my head, the grey silk sky embroidered  
with black kisses, the whoosh of their wings,  
their chattering clatter, patterns broken/formed/  
reformed, a scarf of ragged ribbons. Dumb-  
struck, mouth open, I say *holy* and I say *moly*.  
And then, they're gone.

*Barbara Crooker*

\* A murmuration occurs when a large flock of birds, often starlings, fly together in swooping patterns.

1. Describe, in your own words, the scene witnessed by the speaker in the above poem and his or her reaction to this scene. Explain why you think the speaker reacted in this way. Support your response with reference to the poem. (10)
2. Do you find the language used by the poet in the above poem appealing? 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**

### THE CADILLAC IN THE ATTIC

After the tenant moved out, died, disappeared  
– the stories vary – the landlord  
walked downstairs, bemused, and told his wife,  
“There’s a Cadillac in the attic,”

and there was. An old one, sure, and one  
with sloppy paint, bald tires,  
and orange rust chewing at the rocker panels,  
but still and all, a Cadillac in the attic.

He’d battled transmission, chassis, engine  
block,  
even the huge bench seats,  
up the folding stairs, heaved them through  
the trapdoor,

and rebuilt a Cadillac in the attic

Why’d he do it? we asked. But we know why.  
For the reasons we would do it: for the looks  
of astonishment he’d never see but could  
imagine.

For the joke. A Cadillac in the attic!

And for the meaning, though we aren’t sure  
what it means.

And of course he did it for pleasure,  
the pleasure on his lips of all those short  
vowels

and three hard clicks: the Cadillac in the attic.

*Andrew Hudgins*

1. (a) Based on your reading of the above poem, make three observations about the person who built the Cadillac in the attic. Support your observations with reference to the poem. (15)
- (b) In your opinion, is this an amusing poem? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (15)

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

- (i) You have been asked to write an article about the above poem for the poetry section of your local newspaper. In your article you should explain what the poem is about and share your personal response to it with your readers. Your article should include reference to the poem.

**OR**

- (ii) Based on the poem, “The Cadillac in the Attic”, write a dialogue between the landlord and a reporter from a local radio station in which they discuss the discovery of the car in the attic. Your dialogue should demonstrate your knowledge of the poem.

**OR**

- (iii) Explain the reasons why you do or do not enjoy Andrew Hudgins’ use of language in the above poem. Support your response with reference to specific examples of the poet’s use of language in the poem.

**B****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 slick 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) Based on your reading of the above poem, make three observations about Aunt Jennifer. Support your observations with reference to the poem. (15)
- (b) In your opinion, is this a disturbing poem? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (15)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
  - (i) You have been asked to write an article about the above poem for the poetry section of your local newspaper. In your article you should explain what the poem is about and share your personal response to it with your readers. Your article should include reference to the poem.

**OR**
  - (ii) Based on your reading of the poem, "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers", write a dialogue between Aunt Jennifer and her niece or nephew. The discussion should provide insights into Aunt Jennifer's life. Your dialogue should demonstrate your knowledge of the poem.

**OR**
  - (iii) Explain the reasons why you do or do not enjoy Adrienne Rich's use of language in the above poem. Support your response with reference to specific examples of the poet's use of language in the poem.

**C****BABY-MOVEMENTS II, "TRAILING CLOUDS"**

As a drenched, drowned bee  
Hangs numb and heavy from the bending flower,  
So clings to me,  
My baby, her brown hair brushed with wet tears  
And laid laughterless on her cheek,  
Her soft white legs hanging heavily over my arm  
Swinging to my lullaby.  
My sleeping baby hangs upon my life  
As a silent bee at the end of a shower  
Draws down the burdened flower.  
She who has always seemed so light  
Sways on my arm like sorrowful storm-heavy boughs,  
Even her floating hair sinks like storm-bruised young leaves  
Reaching downwards:  
As the wings of a drenched, drowned bee  
Are a heaviness, and a weariness. *D.H. Lawrence*

1. (a) Based on your reading of the above poem, make three observations about the the baby featured in it. Support your observations with reference to the poem. (15)
- (b) In your opinion, is this an emotional poem? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (15)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
  - (i) You have been asked to write an article about the above poem for the poetry section of your local newspaper. In your article you should explain what the poem is about and share your personal response to it with your readers. Your article should include reference to the poem.

**OR**

- (ii) Based on your reading of the poem, "Baby-Movements II, *Trailing Clouds*", write a dialogue between the parent in the poem and the daughter, now an adult herself, in which they discuss the occasion described in the poem. Your dialogue should demonstrate your knowledge of the poem.

**OR**

- (iii) Explain the reasons why you do or do not enjoy D.H. Lawrence's use of language in the above poem. Support your response with reference to specific examples of the poet's use of language in the poem.



**D****WILL WE WORK TOGETHER?**

You wake in the early gray  
morning in bed alone and curse  
me, that I am only  
sometimes there. But when  
I am with you, I light  
up the corners, I am bright  
as a fireplace roaring  
with love, every bone in my back  
and my fingers is singing  
like a tea kettle on the boil.  
My heart wags me, a big dog  
with a bigger tail. I am  
a new coin printed with  
your face. My body wears

sore before I can express  
on yours the smallest part  
of what moves me. Words  
shred and splinter.  
I want to make with you  
some bold new thing  
to stand in the marketplace,  
the statue of a goddess,  
laughing, armed and wearing  
flowers and feathers. Like sheep  
of whose hair is made  
blankets and coats, I want  
to force from this fierce sturdy  
rampant love some useful thing.

*Marge Piercy*

1. (a) Based on your reading of the above poem, make three observations about the relationship described in it. Support your response with reference to the poem. (15)
- (b) In your opinion, is this a joyful poem? Explain your answer with reference to the poem. (15)
2. Answer **ONE** of the following: [Each part carries 20 marks]
  - (i) You have been asked to write an article about the above poem for the poetry section of your local newspaper. In your article you should explain what the poem is about and share your personal response to it with the readers. Your article should include reference to the poem.

**OR**

- (ii) Based on your reading of the poem, "Will We Work Together?" write a dialogue between the speaker in the poem and her partner in which they discuss the future of their relationship. Your dialogue should demonstrate your knowledge of the poem.

**OR**

- (iii) Explain the reasons why you do or do not enjoy Marge Piercy's use of language in the above poem. Support your response with reference to specific examples of the poet's use of language in the poem.

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Leaving Certificate – Ordinary Level

**English**

3 hours 20 minutes