



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2024

English - Higher Level - Paper 2

Total Marks: 200

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
- 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 (Hamlet) or in Section II, The Comparative Study (Hamlet, Macbeth)

INDEX OF SINGLE TEXTS

<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i>	Page - 2
<i>The Crucible</i>	Page - 2
<i>Hamlet</i>	Page - 2
<i>Frankenstein</i>	Page - 3
<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	Page - 3

This document must be handed up at the end of the examination.

SECTION I

THE SINGLE TEXT

(60 marks)

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

A ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE – Anthony Doerr

- (i) Doerr’s depiction of humanity in his novel, *All the Light We Cannot See*, is unconvincing and largely discouraging. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Develop your response with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Doerr’s utilisation of setting in his novel, *All the Light We Cannot See*, is central to his shaping of an engaging narrative. Discuss this statement, developing your response with reference to the text.

B THE CRUCIBLE – Arthur Miller

- (i) Miller’s depiction of humanity in his play, *The Crucible*, is unconvincing and largely discouraging. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Develop your response with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Miller utilises a range of dramatic techniques effectively, to investigate central human questions about life in his play, *The Crucible*. Discuss this statement developing your response with reference to the text.

C HAMLET – William Shakespeare

- (i) Shakespeare’s depiction of humanity in his play, *Hamlet*, is unconvincing and largely discouraging. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Develop your response with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Shakespeare utilises a range of dramatic techniques effectively, to investigate central questions about life in his play, *Hamlet*. Discuss this statement developing your response with reference to Shakespeare’s play, *Hamlet*.

D FRANKENSTEIN – Mary Shelley

- (i) Shelley’s depiction of humans and monsters in her novel, *Frankenstein*, is unconvincing and largely discouraging. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Develop your response with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Shelley’s utilisation of setting in her novel, *Frankenstein*, is central to her shaping of an engaging narrative. Discuss this statement, developing your response with reference to the text.

E THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY – Oscar Wilde

- (i) Wilde’s depiction of humanity in his novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, is unconvincing and largely discouraging. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Develop your response with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) Wilde’s utilisation of a variety of places in London in his novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, is central to his shaping of an engaging narrative. Discuss this statement, developing your response with reference to the text.

SECTION II THE COMPARATIVE STUDY (70 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** question from **either A** – Literary Genre **or B** – Theme or Issue **or C** – Cultural Context.

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 texts.
- When used, the word **author** is understood to include all writers and directors of texts.
- When used, the word **character** is understood to refer to both real people and fictional characters in texts.
- When used, the words **narrative** or **story** are understood to refer to both real life and fictional texts.

A LITERARY GENRE

1. (a) In the case of **one** text on your comparative course, discuss how the author uses a variety of literary techniques to intensify the tone or atmosphere in that text. Develop your discussion with reference to the text. (30)
- (b) In the case of **two other** texts on your comparative course compare how each of the authors of these texts use at least one literary technique to intensify the mood or atmosphere in these texts. Develop your response with reference to your chosen texts. You may refer to the same or different literary techniques in relation to each of your chosen texts. You may refer to the same or different literary techniques to those you discussed in part (a) above. (40)

OR

2. In the case of **at least two** texts on your comparative course, compare how the authors of these texts employed one or more literary technique(s) to influence how you view a significant relationship in each of these texts. You may refer to the same technique or different techniques in each of your chosen texts. Develop your response with reference to the texts. (70)

B THEME OR ISSUE

1. (a) Identify a theme or issue from **one** text on your comparative course. To what extent was what you learned from the author's exploration of this theme or issue original or innovative? Develop your response with reference to the text. (30)
- (b) In the case of **two other** texts on your comparative course, compare the extent to which what you learned from the authors' exploration of the same theme or issue, dealt with in part (a) above, was original or innovative. Develop your response with reference to your chosen texts. (40)

OR

2. In the case of **at least two** texts on your comparative course, compare the extent to which, in your opinion, the treatment of a theme or issue by the authors of these texts, had a long-lasting impact on you as a reader. Develop your response with reference to your chosen texts. (70)

C CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. (a) In the case of **one** text on your comparative course, explain how your exploration of an aspect of the cultural context allowed you to gain at least one insight into the human condition. Develop your response with reference to the text. (30)
- (b) In the case of **two other** texts on your comparative course, compare the extent to which your exploration of an aspect of the cultural context in each of these texts allowed you to gain at least one insight into the human condition. Develop your response with reference to your chosen texts. You may refer to the same or different aspects of cultural context in relation to each of your chosen texts. You may refer to the same or a different aspect of cultural context to the one discussed in part (a) above. (40)

OR

2. In the case of **at least two** texts on your comparative course, compare the extent to which the dominant values held by characters in these texts shaped the cultural context evident in your chosen texts. Develop your response with reference to 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 extract from 'milk and honey' by Indian-Canadian poet, Rupi Kaur, and answer **either** Question **1** **or** Question **2** which follow.

did you think i was a city
big enough for a weekend getaway
i am the town surrounding it
the one you've never heard of
but always pass through
there are no neon lights here
no skyscrapers or statues
but there is thunder
for i make bridges tremble
i am not street meat i am homemade jam
thick enough to cut the sweetest
thing your lips will touch
i am not police sirens
i am the crackle of a fireplace
i'd burn you and you still
couldn't take your eyes off me
cause i'd look so beautiful doing it
you'd blush
i am not a hotel room i am home
i am not the whiskey you want
i am the water you need
don't come here with expectations
and try to make a vacation out of me **Rupi Kaur**

1. (a) In your opinion, what message is the poet trying to convey in this poem?
Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
- (b) Identify and discuss your understanding of any two of the metaphors employed by the poet in this poem. (10)

OR

2. Rupi Kaur often performs as a spoken-word poet. Explain the aspects of the above poem that, in your opinion, make it suitable or unsuitable for public performance. Develop your response with reference to both the content and language of the poem. (20)

B PRESCRIBED POETRY (50 marks)

Candidates must answer **one** of the following questions (1 – 5).

1. W.B. Yeats

“The tensions apparent in the poetry of Yeats are addressed with emotional honesty.”

Discuss this statement with reference to both the themes and language found in the poetry by W. B. Yeats on your Leaving Certificate English course.

2. Sylvia Plath

“Plath’s work displays realism and resilience through powerful, provocative imagery.”

To what extent do you agree with the above statement? Develop your discussion with reference to both the themes and imagery found in the poetry by Sylvia Plath on your Leaving Certificate English course.

3. Seamus Heaney

“Heaney’s poetry reaches profound insights through the evocative exploration of the past and the present.”

Discuss this statement. Develop your discussion with reference to both the themes and language found in the poetry by Seamus Heaney on your Leaving Certificate English course.

4. Paula Meehan

“In her work, Meehan’s compelling poetic voice simultaneously celebrates and questions her world.”

Discuss this statement. Develop your discussion with reference to both the themes and language found in the poetry by Paula Meehan on your Leaving Certificate English course.

5. Gerard Manley Hopkins

“Hopkins’ poetry explores aspects of spirituality using language in a highly sophisticated and innovative way.”

Discuss this statement with reference to both the themes and language found in the poetry by Gerard Manley Hopkins on your Leaving Certificate English course.

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

English

3 hours and 20 minutes