

## Question 1

Section I: The Single Text – Candidates must answer one question from this section.

### **B THE CRUCIBLE – Arthur Miller**

- (i) “Miller uses Proctor’s complex relationship with Elizabeth to explore a variety of core issues in his play, *The Crucible*.”  
Discuss this statement, developing your response with reference to Miller’s play.

OR

- (ii) Discuss the compelling reasons why Miller’s play, *The Crucible*, should not be considered an entirely bleak play.  
Develop your response with reference to Miller’s play.

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

- (i) “Fitzgerald’s portrayal of love and marriage in his novel, *The Great Gatsby*, is entirely negative.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Support your response with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “The development of characters is influenced by a variety of personal, social and cultural factors in texts.”

Discuss the factors in the novel, *The Great Gatsby*, that you think are most influential in the development of Jay Gatsby’s character. Support your answer with reference to the text.

### **A THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL – Anne Brontë**

- (i) “The world Brontë creates in *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* offers readers an opportunity to gain many fascinating insights into how power, in different forms, operates in this society.” Discuss this statement, developing your response with reference to the text.

OR

- (ii) “Writers often employ a range of literary techniques in an attempt to heighten the credibility of characters in texts.”

Choose **two** characters from Brontë’s novel, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, and discuss the effectiveness of the writer’s use of a range of literary techniques to heighten the credibility of these characters.

Support your response 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.

**E    OTHELLO – William Shakespeare**

- (i) “Othello's foolishness rather than Iago's cleverness leads to the tragedy of Shakespeare's *Othello*.”

Discuss this statement supporting your answer with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

**OR**

- (ii) “Shakespeare's play *Othello* demonstrates the weakness of human judgement.”

Discuss this statement supporting your answer with the aid of suitable reference to the text.

## Question 2

Section II: The Comparative Study – Candidates must answer one question. 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.

### B THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. "The cultural context of a narrative usually determines how the story will unfold."
  - (a) Compare the way in which the cultural context influenced the storyline in **two** of the texts you have studied in your comparative course. (40)
  - (b) Show how the cultural context influenced the storyline in a third text you have studied. (30)

OR

2. "Understanding the cultural context of a text adds to our enjoyment of a good narrative."

In the light of the above statement write an essay comparing the cultural contexts of the texts you have studied in your comparative course. Support the comparisons you make by reference to the texts. (70)

### B LITERARY GENRE

1. "A good text will have moments of great emotional power."
  - (a) With reference to a key moment in **one** of your texts show how this emotional power was created. (30)
  - (b) Take key moments from the **other two texts** from your comparative course and compare the way in which the emotional power of these scenes was created. (40)

OR

2. "The creation of memorable characters is part of the art of good story-telling."

Write an essay comparing the ways in which memorable characters were created and contributed to your enjoyment of the stories in the texts you have studied for your comparative course. It will be sufficient to refer to the creation of **one** character from each of your chosen texts. (70)

### A THEME OR ISSUE

1. "In careful reading/viewing of key moments of texts we often find important themes or issues which are developed in the text as a whole."

- (a) Compare how key moments of two texts you have studied in your comparative course raised an important theme or issue. (40)
- (b) In the case of a third text show how a key moment helped in your understanding of the same theme or issue discussed in part (a). (30)

**OR**

2. “The dramatic presentation of a theme or issue can add greatly to the impact of narrative texts.”

Write an essay comparing how the presentation of a theme or issue, common to the texts you have studied for your comparative course, added to the impact of the texts. (70)

**A THE GENERAL VISION AND VIEWPOINT**

1. “Each text we read presents us with an outlook on life that may be bright or dark, or a combination of brightness and darkness.”

In the light of the above statement, compare the general vision and viewpoint in **at least two texts** you have studied in your comparative course.

(70)

**OR**

2. (a) With reference to **one** of the texts you have studied in your comparative course, write a note on the general vision and viewpoint in the text and on how it is communicated to the reader. (30)
- (b) Compare the general vision and viewpoint in **two other texts** on your comparative course. Support the comparisons you make by reference to the texts. (40)

### Question 3

#### A UNSEEN POEM (20 marks)

Read the following poem by Victoria Kennefick and answer **either** Question 1 or Question 2 which follow.

#### Guest Room

I change the duvet cover like she showed me,  
inside-out, corner-to-corner; lift it over  
my head, seams must be flush.  
I fold a pyramid of towels jewelled  
with tiny soaps, body lotions borrowed  
from hotels, the red hot-water-bottle  
I'll fill later – her rubber husband.  
I *Shake n' Vac* the carpet forest fresh; suck  
spiders' webs from each corner, grey  
and fuzzy, thick as pelts.

My mother's perfume sniffs out  
that I did not iron the sheets.  
Her nightdress pressed into a perfect square,  
a village of potions on the bedside locker.  
My heart sags, an empty hammock  
yawning for the cradle of her arms,  
the animal comfort of her wolf-fur  
coat. I hear her pottering in my kitchen,  
tidying. I turn out the light; night  
cracks its knuckles.

*Victoria Kennefick*

1. (a) What impression do you form of the daughter in this poem? (10)
- (b) Did the poet's use of language in the above poem add to its impact on you?  
Develop two points with reference to the poem in your response. (10)

OR

2. "*Guest Room* is a fascinating exploration of the complex relationship between mother and daughter." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Develop your response with reference to both the subject matter and style of the poem. (20)

## Question 4

Section III B: prescribed Poetry – Candidates must answer one of the following questions.

**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.

**4. John Donne**

“Donne makes effective use of inventive and paradoxical language to explore the human condition in his poetry.”

Discuss this statement with reference to the poetry by John Donne on your Leaving Certificate English course.

**3. Paula Meehan**

“Meehan employs vibrant and forceful language skilfully to challenge the often-oppressive forces identified in her poetry.”

Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the above statement, developing your response with reference to the poems by Paula Meehan on your Leaving Certificate English course.

**5. W.B. Yeats**

“Yeats makes masterful use of aesthetically pleasing language to communicate the insights he draws from history, myth and legend.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement, developing your response with reference to the poems by W.B. Yeats on your Leaving Certificate English course.

**5. Tracy K. Smith**

“In her poetry Smith makes effective use of tone, to heighten a variety of thought-provoking questions about the nature of our lives.”

Discuss this statement, developing your response with reference to the poetry of Tracy K. Smith on your Leaving Certificate English course.

**5. Adrienne Rich**

“A powerful sense of sadness is conveyed in Rich’s poetry through her exposure of the flawed nature of our existence.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement? You should refer to both the language and the themes in the poetry by Adrienne Rich on your Leaving Certificate English course.