

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Wednesday 22 May 2019 – Afternoon

AS Level English Literature

H072/02 Drama and prose post-1900

**Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes
plus your additional time allowance**

YOU MUST HAVE:

**the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)**

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



INSTRUCTIONS

Use black ink.

Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section 1 and ONE from Section 2.

Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.

INFORMATION

The total mark for this paper is 60.

The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].

SECTION 1 – Drama

Noel Coward: ‘Private Lives’

Tennessee Williams: ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’

Harold Pinter: ‘The Homecoming’

Alan Bennett: ‘The History Boys’

Polly Stenham: ‘That Face’

Jez Butterworth: ‘Jerusalem’

Answer ONE question from this section. You should spend 45 minutes on this section.

1 Noel Coward: ‘Private Lives’

EITHER

- (a) ‘Coward said he had a “talent to amuse”. The play provides plenty of amusement, but very little else.’**

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of ‘Private Lives’? [30]

OR

- (b) ‘Elyot and Amanda behave as if youth will never end.’**

In the light of this comment, discuss the roles of Elyot and Amanda in ‘Private Lives’. [30]

2 Tennessee Williams: 'A Streetcar Named Desire'

EITHER

- (a) 'A play that proves marriage has nothing to do with love.'**

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of 'A Streetcar Named Desire'? [30]

OR

- (b) 'Stanley's dignity and sensitivity are important parts of his role.'**

In the light of this comment, discuss the role of Stanley in 'A Streetcar Named Desire'. [30]

3 Harold Pinter: 'The Homecoming'

EITHER

- (a) 'A play that defies our expectations at every turn.'**

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of 'The Homecoming'? [30]

OR

- (b) 'A play about brothers fighting for, and keeping territory.'**

In the light of this comment, discuss the roles of the brothers in 'The Homecoming'. [30]

4 Alan Bennett: 'The History Boys'

EITHER

- (a) 'As the title suggests, 'The History Boys' largely deals with masculine concerns.'**

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of 'The History Boys'? [30]

OR

- (b) 'A play about teachers who make a difference.'**

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of the roles of the various teachers in 'The History Boys'? [30]

5 Polly Stenham: 'That Face'

EITHER

- (a) "That Face' proves that for every bully there is a victim, for every master a slave.'**

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of 'That Face'? [30]

OR

- (b) 'Of the characters in 'That Face', Mia is most likely to survive and succeed.'**

In the light of this comment, discuss the role of Mia in 'That Face'. [30]

6 Jez Butterworth: 'Jerusalem'

EITHER

- (a) 'The play, 'Jerusalem', explores resentments about the way we live now.'**

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of 'Jerusalem'? [30]

OR

- (b) 'Rooster is hardly a hero.'**

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of the role of Rooster in 'Jerusalem'? [30]

SECTION 2 – Prose

F Scott Fitzgerald: ‘The Great Gatsby’

Angela Carter: ‘The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories’

George Orwell: ‘Nineteen Eighty-Four’

Virginia Woolf: ‘Mrs Dalloway’

Mohsin Hamid: ‘The Reluctant Fundamentalist’

Answer ONE question from this section. You should spend 1 hour on this section and it is recommended that you spend 15 minutes reading the question and the unseen passage.

7 F Scott Fitzgerald: ‘The Great Gatsby’

Discuss ways in which Fitzgerald presents the careless side of life in ‘The Great Gatsby’.

In your answer you should make connections and comparisons with the following passage, in which Michael Arlen’s heroine, Iris, challenges Guy to a road race in the 1920s. [30]

In the glass of the windscreen we might now and then see the faint reflection of Guy’s lamps behind us. Nay, once or twice his bonnet nosed up beside Iris, just beside her elbow...

There was a corner...

‘Ho!’ gasped Hugo, chattering, from behind.

‘Steady, girl! Shirley’s frightened...’

‘Let him pass, Iris!’ cried I. A little scared, a woman driving, you never know, might lose her head, boy’s head, curly head, white and tiger-tawny, but too white, too intent, too infernally reckless...

‘Iris, Iris!’

‘Can do seventy-five if you like,’ cried the lips of the dancing hair.

‘Let him pass, Iris!’

‘Pass? Am I mad! As soon let happiness pass! See, the stars are laughing...’

‘Iris, Iris!’

‘Let him pass, Iris! Damn you, it won’t hold the road!’

‘Why, the road’s fainting with joy! Can do seventy-six if you like. But not more...’

Iris kicked open the exhaust. That lends another mile an hour to speed. Another sixty horses gave answer behind, then fell snarling back towards London. ‘Seventy-one, Iris!’

‘Ow!’ she breathed. ‘Accelerator burning foot. Ow! Hell!’

And so we came into the yard of Quindle’s.

A man in shirt-sleeves was come out of the hotel.

‘Now remember,’ whispered Shirley at large, ‘no matter how beastly they are to us, we are going to bathe. Let everyone speak at once. That will baffle him.’

‘Evening,’ said the man in shirt-sleeves. ‘Bit late, isn’t it?’

‘Not one o’clock yet,’ said Hugo. ‘I say, we want to bathe.’

Michael Arlen, ‘The Green Hat’ (1924) abridged.

8 Angela Carter: 'The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories'

Discuss ways in which Carter explores the male desire to dominate women in 'The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories'.

In your answer you should select material from the whole text and make connections and comparisons with the following passage, an extract from a short story in which a father tries to take control of his daughter's actions. [30]

In an old castle under the forested mountains of the Welsh Marches there lived long ago Owen ap Gwythock¹, Lord of Eggleysseg. He was a short, burly, stooping man with thick black hair on head and face, large ears, and small restless eyes. And he lived in his great castle alone, except for one only daughter, the lovely Myfanwy.

Lovely indeed was she. Her hair, red as red gold, hung in plaits to her knees. When she laughed, it was like bells in a far-away steeple. When she sang, Echo forgot to reply. And her spirit would sit gently looking out of her blue eyes like cushats² out of their nest in an ivy bush.

Myfanwy was happy, too—in most things. All that her father could give her for her ease and pleasure was hers—everything indeed but her freedom. She might sing, dance, think and say; eat, drink, and delight in whatsoever she wished or willed. Indeed her father loved her so dearly that he would sit for hours together merely watching her—as you may watch wind over wheat, reflections in water, or clouds in the heavens. So long as she was safely and solely his all was well.

But ever since Myfanwy had been a child,
a miserable foreboding had haunted his mind.
Supposing she should some day leave him?
Supposing she were lost or decoyed away?
Supposing she fell ill and died? What then? The dread
of this haunted his mind day and night. His dark
brows loured³ at the very thought of it. It made him
morose and sullen; it tied up the tongue in his head.

Walter de la Mare, 'The Lovely Myfanwy' (1925)


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- 1 Owen, the son of Gwythock (Welsh)
2 cushats: wood pigeons
3 loured: darkened

9 George Orwell: 'Nineteen Eighty-Four'

Discuss ways in which Orwell explores the use of punishment in 'Nineteen Eighty-Four'.

In your answer you should make connections and comparisons with the following passage from a recent dystopian novel in which a school for minor offenders becomes a place of repression and torture. [30]

K Simmons, 'Article 5', pp.51-52, Tor Teen, 2012. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.



Kristen Simmons, 'Article Five' (2012)

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- ¹ **Chase: the narrator's boyfriend, but also the officer who arrested her**
- ² **seventeens: the oldest group of imprisoned girls**

10 Virginia Woolf: 'Mrs Dalloway'

Discuss the ways in which Woolf explores how characters think in 'Mrs Dalloway'.

In your answer you should make connections and comparisons with the following passage, in which a wealthy young woman walks about London in the 1920s. [30]

Fleur stepped out between her tubbed bay trees. A quarter to nine by Big Ben! Twenty odd minutes to walk across the Green Park! She had drunk her coffee in bed to elude questions – and there, of course, was Dad with his nose glued to the dining-room window. She waved the accounts and he withdrew his face as if they had flicked him. He was ever so good, but he shouldn't always be dusting her – she wasn't a piece of china!

She walked briskly. She had no honeysuckle sensations this morning, but felt hard and bright. If Jon had come back to England to stay, she must get him over. The sooner the better, without fuss! Passing the geraniums in front of Buckingham Palace, just out and highly scarlet, she felt her blood heating. Not walk so fast or she would arrive damp! The trees were far advanced; the Green Park under breeze and sun, smelled of grass and leaves. Spring had not smelled so good for years. A longing for the country seized on Fleur. Grass and trees and water – her hours with Jon had been passed among them – one hour in this very Park, before he took her down to Robin Hill! Robin Hill had been sold to some peer or other, and she wished him joy of it – she knew its history as of some unlucky ship!

John Galsworthy, 'Swan Song' (1928)

11 Mohsin Hamid: 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist'

Discuss ways in which Mohsin Hamid explores the impact of global conflict in 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist'.

In your answer you should make connections and comparisons with the following passage, in which a young woman comes to terms with the prospect of nuclear war with Russia in 1962. [30]

J Alvarez, 'Snow' from 'How The Garcia Girls Got Their Accents', pp166-167, Bloomsbury Books Ltd, 1991. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

Julia Alvarez, 'Snow' (1992)

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- 1 Holocaust: nuclear holocaust was the name given in the 1960s to the destruction of civilization by means of nuclear weapons**
 - 2 Rosary: Roman Catholics pray the rosary using a string of beads to keep count of multiple prayers recited in sequence.**

END OF QUESTION PAPER



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