Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 23 May 2025 – Morning

AS Level English Literature

H072/02 Drama and prose post-1900

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

You must have:
- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS
- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **one** question in Section 1 and **one** in Section 2.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is **60**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets **[ ]**.
- This document has **12** pages.

ADVICE
- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

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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 about **45 minutes** on this section.

1 Noel Coward: *Private Lives*

Either

(a) 'The play shows what fun it can be to dominate other people.'

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

Or

(b) 'Victor is a bully with a bad temper, while Sybil is foolish and immature.'

In the light of this comment, discuss the roles of Victor and Sybil in *Private Lives*. **[30]**

2 Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Either

(a) Williams argued his play was about the 'merciless harshness of America's success-orientated society.'

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

Or

(b) 'Stella seems both tougher and gentler than her sister Blanche.'

In the light of this comment, discuss the roles of Stella and Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. **[30]**

3 Harold Pinter: *The Homecoming*

Either

(a) 'The purpose of dialogue in this play is to get something from another person.'

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

Or

(b) 'Ruth contributes something this all-male household so urgently needs.'

In the light of this comment, discuss the role of Ruth in *The Homecoming*. **[30]**

4 Alan Bennett: *The History Boys*

Either

(a) 'A play that explores frustration as much as success.'

How far and in what ways do you agree with this comment on *The History Boys*? **[30]**

Or

(b) 'Irwin's personal insecurities come through in his cynical teaching methods.'

In the light of this comment, discuss the role of Irwin in *The History Boys*. **[30]**

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5 Polly Stenham: *That Face*

Either

(a) 'In this play the problems of a dysfunctional family reflect those of wider society.'

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

Or

(b) 'Martha treats Henry like a plaything, not a son.'

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of the roles of Martha and Henry in *That Face*? **[30]**

6 Jez Butterworth: *Jerusalem*

Either

(a) 'Jerusalem is not paradise but a rubbish dump.'

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

Or

(b) 'Dawn and Wesley can't tear themselves free from the respectable world.'

How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of the roles of Dawn and Wesley 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 about **1 hour** on this section.

Spend about **15 minutes** reading the question and the unseen passage.

7 F Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*

Discuss ways in which Fitzgerald presents wealth and luxury in *The Great Gatsby*.

In your answer you should make connections and comparisons with the unseen passage below, in which a relationship is tentatively re-started. **[30]**

© Ring Lardner, The Best Short Stories of Ring Lardner, p. 168, Scribner's, 1957. From first line "An hour's drive brought them to Ardsley-on-Hudson" to last line "and suggestive of an Atlantic City auction sale." Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

[1] Ardsley-on-Hudson: country village, north of New York

[2] Yale Bowl: a college football stadium in America

[3] Urbanesque: packed in close, to suggest an urban vista

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

Discuss ways in which Carter transforms folk-tales 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 unseen passage below. **[30]**

As she was passing through a thick forest, she heard a dismal howling not far away. It seemed the very expression of her own sorrow. Too depressed to feel frightened, she followed the sound and came upon a large, gray, yellow-eyed she-wolf caught in a trap by her right foreleg, howling with pain and distress.

"Oh, poor wolf," said kindhearted Lupa. "Can I help you?" To her amazed delight, the wolf replied.

"Get me out of this trap," begged the wolf. "I have babies at home in my den. They will die if they lose me."

Lupa picked up a stout stick and opened the jaws of the trap to release the wolf's leg. Then she squatted down and tenderly bandaged the lacerated limb with a strip torn from her petticoat. The wolf stood patiently for these ministrations.

"My cubs and I thank you," she said. "How can I repay your kindness?"

"Alas, my situation is so unhappy that no one can help me," said Lupa. She told the wolf all her troubles, beginning with the cow's death and ending with the spoiled tapestries.

"Never mind going to the market," said the wolf. "Go home and don't worry. All will be well."

With that, the wolf limped away on her bandaged leg and disappeared into the underbrush.

Barbara G. Walker, *Feminist Fairy Tales* (1996)

9 George Orwell: *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Discuss ways in which Orwell presents the concept of freedom in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

In your answer you should make connections and comparisons with the unseen passage below, an extract from a novel where the leading character finally escapes to Canada from a cruel regime in the United States. **[30]**

© Hillary Jordan, When She Woke, p. 339, HarperCollins, 2011. From first line "She walked into whiteness: cold, stark, alien, beautiful" to last line "She had never in her life been this vulnerable, or felt this powerful." Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

[1] limning: highlighting or lighting up

[2] Novembrists: a revolutionary group

10 Virginia Woolf: *Mrs Dalloway*

Discuss ways in which Woolf explores the impact of shell-shock in *Mrs Dalloway*.

In your answer you should make connections and comparisons with the unseen passage below where Dr Rivers, a psychiatrist, is using hypnosis to treat Prior, a survivor of the trenches. **[30]**

© Pat Barker, Regeneration, p.101-02, Penguin Books, 2004. From first line "Prior nodded. He looked profoundly sceptical." to last line "Then an hour of standing, stiff and shivery, watching dawn grow." (UK Rights only) Item removed due to additional country third party copyright restrictions.

11 Mohsin Hamid: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

Discuss ways in which Mohsin Hamid explores ideas about cultural difference in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

In your answer you should make connections and comparisons with the unseen passage below set in 1982 in which the narrator reflects on ways in which he and others of a Pakistani background have responded to life in America. **[30]**

© Ayad Akhtar, Homeland Elegies, p.37 , Tinder Press, 2019. From first line "I was surprised to find Ramla," to last line "and here he was raising children who complained there were not enough marshmallows in their bowls of Lucky Charms." Item removed due to third party copyright restriction

[1] The Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

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