TEST CODE **01219020**

FORM TP 2008074

MAY/JUNE 2008

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

ENGLISH B

Paper 02 – General Proficiency

2½ hours

14 MAY 2008 (a.m.)

EACH QUESTION IS WORTH A TOTAL OF 35 MARKS

In addition to the 2½ hours allowed for the examination, you are allowed 10 minutes in order to read through the entire paper.

You may write during the 10-minute period.

This paper consists of TEN questions, arranged in three sections as follows:

SECTION A: DRAMA

Questions 1 and 2: Shakespeare
Questions 3 and 4: Modern Drama

SECTION B: POETRY

Questions 5 and 6

SECTION C: PROSE FICTION

Questions 7 to 10

ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.

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For each question in Sections A and B, in addition to the 25 marks indicated for content and argument, a maximum of 10 marks is also allocated for structure, development and competence in the mechanics of writing.

You are expected to write in the essay format and develop all your responses fully.

You are advised to read all instructions carefully before starting to write.

SECTION A – DRAMA

Answer ONE question in this section.

MACBETH

EITHER

1. In the period leading up to Duncan's murder, we see instances where Macbeth struggles against the thought of committing the deed.

(a) Describe Macbeth's conflicting thoughts and feelings as he contemplates the murder. **(9 marks)**

(b) What TWO means does Shakespeare use to evoke our sympathy for Macbeth during this period? **(8 marks)**

(c) Identify and explain TWO ways in which Shakespeare later impresses upon his audience what a horrible crime it is to kill a king. **(8 marks)**

OR

2. In Act 1 Scene 5, Lady Macbeth learns that Macbeth is now Thane of Cawdor and that the witches have promised he will be king "hereafter".

(a) What do we learn of Lady Macbeth and of her attitude to her husband as she prays: "Unsex me here"? **(9 marks)**

(b) Show how Lady Macbeth seems stronger than her husband in the hours that follow. **(8 marks)**

(c) What evidence do we have later in the play to show that Lady Macbeth is not in fact as strong as she appears at this stage? **(8 marks)**

GLASS MENAGERIE

EITHER

3. 'Amanda cares about her children but her parenting methods are very destructive.'

(a) Discuss ONE incident that shows her destructive behaviour towards Tom and ONE incident that shows her destructive behaviour towards Laura. **(8 marks)**

(b) Explain how Amanda's behaviour in EACH incident could also be interpreted as a demonstration of maternal care. **(9 marks)**

(c) Choose TWO of the following and for EACH explain how it could symbolize Amanda's destructive effect on her children:

- The title of the play;
- The father's photograph;
- The setting of the stage that is described at the beginning of the play;
- The music. **(8 marks)**

OR

4. (a) Describe what Tom enjoys doing in his leisure time, and comment on what we learn about him from his choice of activities. **(8 marks)**

(b) Amanda frequently accuses Tom of being selfish in his choice of activities. Say whether or not you agree with Amanda, giving reasons for your answer. **(8 marks)**

(c) Discuss Tom's function in the play as a whole. **(9 marks)**

SECTION B – POETRY

Answer ONE question in this section.

EITHER

5. Both Claude McKay's 'The Lynching' and Olive Senior's 'Colonial Girls' School' record the impact of prejudice.

(a) What is the nature of the prejudice described in EACH poem?

Give THREE examples from EACH poem. **(8 marks)**

(b) Identify and comment on TWO poetic devices used in EACH poem to highlight the workings of the prejudice. **(8 marks)**

(c) Which of the two poems do you find more disturbing? Give your reasons. **(9 marks)**

OR

6. Consider the poems 'Dreaming Black Boy' and 'Once Upon A Time'. In both poems the speaker wishes that life could be different.

(a) (i) Comment on the effectiveness of the choice of speaker in EACH poem.

(ii) Which of the speakers appeals more to your sympathy? Give reasons for your choice. **(9 marks)**

(b) (i) For EACH speaker, describe the aspects of society with which he is not happy. **(4 marks)**

(ii) For EACH speaker, describe the aspects of himself with which he is not happy. **(4 marks)**

(c) For EACH poem, identify ONE poetic device and say how it contributes to the overall effect of the poem. **(8 marks)**

SECTION C – PROSE FICTION

Answer ONE question in this section.

Marks for EACH question are awarded as follows:

Content and argument – 25 marks
Structure, development, mechanics of writing – 10 marks

You MUST state the title of any books you refer to in your answer.

You should refer only to books that are on the prescribed list for this examination.

EITHER

7. (a) Discuss how the writer highlights the MAJOR conflict in ONE West Indian and ONE non-West Indian novel that you have studied.

(b) Comment on ONE issue the writer of EACH text wants readers to understand from this conflict.

OR

8. Compare and contrast the ways in which a MAJOR character is affected by the power of a person OR group OR society in ONE West Indian and ONE non-West Indian novel that you have studied.

OR

9. "Painful experiences in life sometimes help people to understand themselves and other people better."

Discuss the extent to which this statement is true **or** not true of a MAJOR character in ONE West Indian and ONE non-West Indian novel.

OR

10. Choose ONE West Indian and ONE non-West Indian novel in which the MAIN character suffers loss.

(a) Describe the various kinds of loss that EACH character suffers.

(b) Comment on the ways in which EACH character responds to this experience.

END OF TEST