

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2021 SECOND SESSION

| SUBJECT: | English |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| PAPER NUMBER: | I |
| DATE: | 4 th October 2021 |
| TIME: | 4:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m. |

Answer ONE question from Section A, ONE from Section B and ONE from Section C.

SECTION A: SHAKESPEARE SET TEXTS

(Total :33 marks)

In Section A, essays **must not be shorter than 500 words**.

1. Romeo and Juliet

(a) Discuss the main aspects of Mercutio's character and his role in *Romeo and Juliet*.

OR

(b) *`Romeo and Juliet* illustrates the struggles of individuals against public and social forces they cannot control.' Discuss to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement.

OR

(c) Discuss the relationship between hate and familial duty in *Romeo and Juliet*.

2. Othello

(a) Discuss the theme of justice in Othello.

OR

(b) '*Othello* is a play that explores contrasting forms of friendship, sometimes strengthened by devotion and sometimes marred by deception.' Discuss with specific reference to any **TWO** or more different character relationships in the play.

OR

(c) 'Othello is a play that demonstrates the destructive power of jealousy.' Discuss.

Please turn the page

SECTION B: POETRY SET TEXTS

(Total: 33 marks)

In Section B, essays **must not be shorter than 500 words**.

1. Elizabeth Bishop

(a) 'The subject matter of Elizabeth Bishop's poetry is her life.' Discuss.

OR

(b) With reference to **THREE** poems of your choice, discuss the ways in which Elizabeth Bishop's poetry often explores moments of revelation.

OR

(c) With detailed reference to any **THREE** poems of your choice, discuss some ways in which Elizabeth Bishop's poetic language conveys intensity of feeling.

2. Carol Ann Duffy

(a) 'Carol Ann Duffy's poetry often explores different forms of love.' Discuss.

OR

(b) 'Carol Ann Duffy's poetry often gives prominence to previously marginalised female voices.' Discuss with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

OR

(c) With detailed reference to any **THREE** poems of your choice, discuss Carol Ann Duffy's conversational poetic style.

3. Seamus Heaney

(a) 'Seamus Heaney's poetry often explores universal themes despite being set in specific local landscapes.' Discuss.

OR

(b) Seamus Heaney's poetry has been described as conveying the extraordinary in the ordinary. Discuss this aspect of Heaney's poetry with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

OR

(c) With detailed reference to any **THREE** poems of your choice, illustrate the beauty of Seamus Heaney's emotionally expressive poetic language.

SECTION C: POETRY CRITICISM

Write a critical appreciation of the poem below.

- Your essay must **not be shorter than 400 words**.
- Focus on theme, form and poetic language.
- You may also comment on any other literary aspects of the poem that you consider to be worthy of discussion.

For My Mother

Once more I summon you Out of the past With poignant love, You who nourished the poet And the lover. I see your gray eyes Looking out to sea In those Rockport summers, Keeping a distance Within the closeness Which was never intrusive Opening out Into the world. And what I remember Is how we laughed Till we cried Swept into merriment Especially when times were hard. And what I remember Is how you never stopped creating And how people sent me Dresses you had designed With rich embroidery In brilliant colors Because they could not bear To give them away Or cast them aside. I summon you now Not to think of The ceaseless battle With pain and ill health, The frailty and the anguish. No, today I remember The creator, The lion-hearted.

by May Sarton

L-Università ta' Malta MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2021 SECOND SESSION

| SUBJECT: | English | |
|---------------|------------------------------|--|
| PAPER NUMBER: | II | |
| DATE: | 5 th October 2021 | |
| TIME: | 4:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m. | |

Answer **BOTH** Section A **AND** Section B.

SECTION A: NOVEL SET TEXTS

- Answer **TWO** questions (**not on the same novel**) from this section.
- Essays in this section must **not be shorter than 500 words**.

1. The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

(a) Write an essay about the roles played by Serena Joy and Ofglen in The Handmaid's Tale.

OR

(b) Discuss the importance of transgression in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

2. Great Expectations, Charles Dickens

(a) What do Biddy and Miss Havisham contribute to the themes of Great Expectations?

OR

(b) Discuss Dickens's treatment of the theme of education in Great Expectations.

3. Atonement, Ian McEwan

(a) Compare and contrast the Tallis Home to the other places used as setting in McEwan's *Atonement*.

OR

(b) 'Briony's 1999 epilogue to her story makes readers reconsider the main events in *Atonement'*. Discuss.

4. Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë

(a) Discuss the roles played by Edgar and Isabella Linton in *Wuthering Heights*.

OR

(b) Discuss the importance of property and wealth in *Wuthering Heights*.

5. To Kill a Mocking Bird, Harper Lee

(a) Discuss the roles of Boo Radley and Tom Robinson in *To Kill A Mocking Bird*.

OR

(b) Discuss Harper Lee's presentation of justice in To Kill A Mocking Bird.

(Total: 66 marks)

SECTION B: PROSE CRITICISM

Write a critical appreciation of the passage below.

- Your essay must **not be shorter than 400 words**.
- Focus on theme, characterisation and point of view.
- You may also comment on any other literary aspect or aspects of the passage that you consider to be worthy of discussion, such as, imagery, style, tone and setting.

He is waiting at the gate when her flight comes in. Two years have passed since he saw his mother; despite himself, he is shocked at how she has aged. Her hair, which had had streaks of grey in it, is now entirely white; her shoulders stoop; her flesh has grown flabby.

They have never been a demonstrative family. A hug, a few murmured words, and the business of greeting is done. In silence they follow the flow of travellers to the baggage hall, pick up her suitcase, and set off on the ninety-minute drive.

'A long flight,' he remarks. 'You must be exhausted.'

'Ready to sleep,' she says; and indeed, en route, she falls asleep briefly, her head slumped against the window.

At six o'clock, as it is growing dark, they pull up in front of his home in suburban Waltham. His wife Norma and the children appear on the porch. In a show of affection that must cost her a great deal, Norma holds her arms out wide and says, 'Elizabeth!' The two women embrace; then the children, in their well-brought-up though more subdued fashion, follow suit.

Elizabeth Costello the novelist will be staying with them for the three days of her visit to Appleton College. It is not a period he is looking forward to. His wife and his mother do not get on. It would be better were she to stay at a hotel, but he cannot bring himself to suggest that.

Hostilities are removed almost at once. Norma has prepared a light supper. His mother notices that only three places have been set. 'Aren't the children eating with us?' she asks. 'No,' says Norma, 'they are eating in the playroom.' 'Why?'

The question is not necessary, since she knows the answer. The children are eating separately because Elizabeth does not like to see meat on the table, while Norma refuses to change the children's diet to suit what she calls 'your mother's delicate sensibilities'.

'Why?' asks Elizabeth Costello a second time.

Norma flashes him an angry glance. He sighs. 'Mother,' he says, 'the children are having chicken for supper, that's the only reason.'

'Oh,' she says. 'I see.'

His mother has been invited to Appleton College, where her son John is assistant professor of physics and astronomy, to deliver the annual Gates Lecture and meet with literature students. Because Costello is his mother's maiden name, and because he has never seen any reason to broadcast his connection with her, it was not known at the time of the invitation that Elizabeth Costello, the Australian writer, had a family connection in the Appleton community. He would have preferred that state of affairs to continue.

On the basis of her reputation as a novelist, this fleshy, white-haired lady has been invited to Appleton to speak on any subject she elects; and she has responded by electing to speak, not about herself and her fiction, as her sponsors would no doubt like, but about a hobbyhorse of hers, animals.



MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2021 SECOND SESSION

| SUBJECT: | English |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| PAPER NUMBER: | III |
| DATE: | 6 th October 2021 |
| TIME: | 4:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. |

Answer **ALL** sections.

SECTION A: LANGUAGE ESSAY

(Total: 33 marks)

Write an essay of not less than 500 words on ONE of the following topics:

- 1. Learning lessons from disaster
- 2. Critical thinking, or the lack of it
- 3. The day I realised I had become invisible
- 4. Walking in nature
- 5. Can a sense of community be created on social media?
- 6. Social justice
- 7. Healing
- 8. If you were in control of the universe, how would you script what will happen on Earth in 2022?

SECTION B: SUMMARY

Write a summary of the following passage in between 150 and 200 words.

Pets and the Pandemic: The impact our animals had on our mental health and wellbeing

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, there's been an unprecedented increase in animal adoptions and purchases in the UK, as people seek animal companionship to tackle feelings of isolation and anxiety. While many report that having a pet has been supportive to their mental health, research on the benefits of pet ownership and mental health still remains inconclusive.

There is evidence that interacting with animals can have a range of benefits to our mental and physical health. Studies have shown, for example, that owning animals may encourage physical activity. Research has also suggested that pets may be beneficial for mental health and wellbeing due to attachment to or companionship provided by the animal. Yet on the other end of the spectrum, research indicates that pets can exacerbate mental health symptoms for some. Increased guilt and excessive worry have also been shown, especially for those who display a strong attachment to their pets.

But why are these findings so inconclusive? One reason for this is related to how studies in this area have been conducted. Many of the studies we currently have on this topic have relied on observational studies (such as surveys or interviews) rather than intervention research (such as a randomised controlled trial which splits subjects into two or more groups, but only allocates a treatment or intervention to one of the groups to see the effect). This can make it difficult to draw reliable conclusions about their results.

The pandemic has changed how we interact with our pets. A large survey of 5,926 people conducted by researchers at the University of York investigated human-animal relationships during the UK's first lockdown. The study found that nearly 90% of pet owners reported their pet had helped them to cope better emotionally during lockdown. Participants who owned pets were reported to have poorer mental health before the lockdown compared to non-pet owners, indicating potentially greater vulnerability. But pet owners showed less deterioration in their mental health and feelings of loneliness during the lockdown. This might indicate that pets have a "protective" effect on owners' mental health.

Additional analysis of the results shows that a sense of companionship and connectedness, distraction from feelings of distress, and animals' intuitive responses might explain why pets have largely been beneficial to owners during lockdown. But the study also showed that pet ownership during the pandemic has also caused concerns, including worries about restricted veterinary access, economic hardship, and what would happen to the pet if the owner became ill. Whether owning a pet benefited a person's mental health during the pandemic also depends on the restrictions in place. For example, if time spent outdoors and travelling even short distances are restricted, this can cause concern for dog owners as they may not be able to walk their dog as often or as long as they'd like.

Importantly, the evidence does not suggest that people who don't currently (or have never) owned pets would benefit from doing so during – and after – the pandemic. This is a key point to make, as the widespread belief that owning a pet can help people cope during the pandemic may be to blame for a steep increase in pet theft and related violence.

There are also concerns over increased relinquishment, rehoming, or abandonment of pets – for example if the owner becomes unable to care for their pet due to financial reasons, or if they don't have the time to look after their pet after returning to work. Pet ownership is not something

to be taken lightly. Perhaps people need instead to look first into alternatives for improving mental health – such as exercise or mindfulness meditation.

(Adapted from theconversation.com)

SECTION C: LINGUISTICS

(Total: 33 marks)

Choose ONE question from this section.

- 1. Answer tasks a, b, c **AND** d
- a. Clause elements are units used to describe the structure of a sentence. The main clause elements are: Subject, Verb, Object, Adverbial and Complement.

The sentences below already have a Subject and a Verb. Rewrite sentences i to viii adding to them the clause elements suggested in brackets.

The following is an example.

Example: The children played + (Adverbial)Answer: The children played after they finished their work.

- i. (Adverbial) + the choir sang + (Object).
- ii. (Adverbial) + Mr Abela was elected + (Complement).
- iii. I understood + (Object) + (Adverbial).
- iv. He died + (Complement) + (Adverbial).
- v. Did he realise + (Object) + (Complement)?
- vi. They have cancelled + (Object) + (Complement).
- vii. (Adverbial) + I exercise + (Adverbial) + (Adverbial).
- viii. (Adverbial) + she called + (Object) + (Complement).

(9 marks)

 b. Morphology is concerned with the structure of words. The morpheme is the smallest unit of language that expresses meaning. Write words to satisfy the suggestions given below (i to ix). Separate each morpheme in your answer using the + sign.

The following is an example.

Example: A word with a prefix and a suffix Answer: in + correct + ly

- i. A compound word
- ii. A word with an inflectional morpheme
- iii. A free morpheme
- iv. A word with a derivational prefix that changes meaning but not word class
- v. A word with a derivational prefix that changes word class
- vi. A word with a derivational suffix that changes meaning but not word class
- vii. A word with a derivational suffix that changes word class followed by an inflectional morpheme
- viii. A word with two derivational suffixes that change word class
- ix. A word with five morphemes

(9 marks)

This question continues on next page

c. Write sentences to include the type of word class suggested for each item below (i to vi). Underline the type of word class given as a cue.

The following is an example.

Example: Abstract noun Answer: Her <u>feelings</u> towards him never changed.

- i. Comparative adjective
- ii. Primary auxiliary verb
- iii. Modal auxiliary verb
- iv. Possessive pronoun
- v. Reflexive pronoun
- vi. Passive verb

(6 marks)

d. Write a short paragraph (of around 120 words) explaining the difference between a Simple, Complex and Compound sentence. Support your brief explanation for each sentence type with an example.

(9 marks)

OR

- 2. In every society, there are topics and words that are believed to be inappropriate if spoken about or used in certain social contexts. Language taken as vulgar or obscene and which should be avoided in communication is considered to be 'taboo language'. Write an essay on the subject addressing the following aspects of taboo language (i-iv), using examples to illustrate your points.
 - i. What taboo language is
 - ii. Avoidance of taboo language
 - iii. Reasons for using taboo language
 - iv. Attitudes to taboo language

OR

- 3. In about 400 words, discuss the following article by Will Stone from the *Daily Star* highlighting its characteristics as a tabloid article. Focus on these features:
 - Graphology
 - Headlines
 - Vocabulary
 - Grammar
 - Tone
 - Structure

The text of the article is transcribed on page 6 for clarity.



DAILY STAR, Wednesday, February 17, 2021

ROTTEN RODENTS ARE RAT IT AGAIN

Narrow squeak

THIS greedy baby rat went hunting for food – and managed to get stuck in a wire feeder filled with sweet balls for the birds.

He managed to scramble inside, but ended up looking helpless as he found himself trapped. Veronica Poultney spotted the rat in her garden near Ely, Cambs. She said: "The cold weather has brought them further afield to look for food."

Pest numbers rise to 150m in just a year

EXCLUSIVE by WILL STONE

THE number of rats has risen by 25% in the past few months, experts say.

The population of the rodents in the UK has grown from 120million in 2019 to 150m last year. Pest controllers say the recent cold snap and food stockpiling make it easier for rodents to thrive. Infestations across the country are believed to have taken hold because many buildings have been left empty for months.

Jenny Rathbone from Pest.co.uk said: "The big worry is when shops, restaurants and offices are unlocked in preparation for openings over the next few months."

"Business owners are going to discover fairly advanced infestations.

"Rats will always find something to eat - even a leather sofa will do."

Experts also fear rats have developed resistance to poisons and other pest control methods.

Pest controllers have even spotted cunning rats moving a crisp packet and placing it over a glue trap to avoid being caught.

Landlords and building owners are being warned to check their premises for rodent infestations. Rats especially are very bad news in any commercial building as they can chew through wires, internet cables, keyboards and electrical wiring.

Ms Rathbone added: "Rats climb up wastewater pipes easily, and once in an empty building can breed like crazy and cause major damage.

"We are gearing up for a busy 2021."

news@dailystar.co.uk