

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2023 FIRST SESSION

SUBJECT: English

PAPER NUMBER: I

DATE: 13th May 2023

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

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

SECTION A: SHAKESPEARE SET TEXTS

(33 marks)

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

Essays responding to a gobbet (1a or 2a) should:

- identify the immediate context of the extract and its relation to the play as a whole;
- focus primarily on the given extract while also referring to the play as a whole;
- relate the extract to at least **TWO** of: characterisation, theme, imagery, and setting.

1. Romeo and Juliet

EITHER

(a) Gobbet.

ROMEO

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright! It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night As a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear, Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear. So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows, As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows. The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand And touching hers, make blessed my rude hand. Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight, For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

TYBALT

This, by his voice, should be a Montague. Fetch me my rapier, boy.

Exit PAGE.

What, dares the slave
Come hither, covered with an antic face,
To fleer and scorn at our solemnity?
Now, by the stock and honour of my kin,
To strike him dead I hold it not a sin.

OR

(b) Discuss the Nurse's character and role in Romeo and Juliet.

OR

(c) Discuss the theme of loyalty in Romeo and Juliet.

2. Othello

EITHER

(a) Gobbet.

OTHELLO What would you do with her [Desdemona], sir?

LODOVICO Who? I, my lord?

OTHELLO Ay, you did wish that I would make her turn.

Sir, she can turn, and turn, and yet go on, And turn again. And she can weep, sir, weep. And she's obedient; as you say, obedient, Very obedient — proceed you in your tears — Concerning this, sir, — O, well-painted passion! —

I am commanded home — get you away!

I'll send for you anon. — Sir, I obey the mandate,

And will return to Venice. — Hence, avaunt!

Exit DESDEMONA

Cassio shall have my place. And, sir, tonight

I do entreat that we may sup together.

You are welcome, sir, to Cyprus. Goats and monkeys!

Exit OTHELLO

LODOVICO Is this the noble Moor whom our full senate

Call all-in-all sufficient? Is this the nature

Whom passion could not shake? Whose solid virtue

The shot of accident nor dart of chance

Could neither graze nor pierce?

IAGO He is much chang'd.

LODOVICO Are his wits safe? Is he not light of brain?

OR

(b) Discuss the theme of knowledge in Othello.

OR

(c) Discuss the character and role of Cassio in Othello.

SECTION B: POETRY SET TEXTS

(33 marks)

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

1. Elizabeth Bishop

(a) Discuss the sense of isolation that emerges in Elizabeth Bishop's poetry, with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

OR

(b) 'Elizabeth Bishop's poetry remains rooted in everyday particulars.' Discuss this statement with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

2. Carol Ann Duffy

(a) Discuss the presence of suffering in Carol Ann Duffy's poetry, with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

OR

(b) 'In her poetry, Carol Ann Duffy uses her voice to amplify unheard voices.' Discuss this statement with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

3. Seamus Heaney

(a) Discuss the significance of memory in Seamus Heaney's poetry with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

OR

(b) Discuss Seamus Heaney's allusions to his own poetic craft with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

Please turn the page.

SECTION C: POETRY CRITICISM

(33 marks)

Write a critical appreciation of the poem below.

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

'Almond Blossom'

This morning, love, I'm tired and grave; I can barely hear the wintered bird's small song over the hum of the central heating. We must trust, I suppose, to the song's bare minim*:

that spring will be a green havoc as the trees burst their slums and the dirt breaks open to admit crocus-spear and cyclamen**;

and though we can't yet feel it earth's already begun her slow incline, inch by ruined inch, easing you back from the brink.

* minim: a type of musical note.

by Fiona Benson

^{**} crocus-spear and cyclamen: types of flowering plants.



MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2023 FIRST SESSION

(Total: 66 marks)

SUBJECT: English

PAPER NUMBER: II

DATE: 13th May 2023

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) Discuss the importance of memory in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

OR

(b) 'In *The Handmaid's Tale*, Atwood illustrates the power of a totalitarian state over the individual.' Discuss.

2. Great Expectations, Charles Dickens

(a) 'In Great Expectations Dickens explores the process of becoming human.' Discuss.

OR

(b) 'The novel's main concerns are mirrored in the relationship between Pip and Joe.' Discuss.

3. Atonement, Ian McEwan

(a) Discuss the importance of the war setting in Atonement.

OR

(b) 'One of McEwan's central concerns in Atonement is the painful realisation that what is done cannot be undone.' Discuss.

4. Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë

(a) 'In *Wuthering Heights*, love is presented as an emotion which provokes violence, rather than tenderness.' Discuss Brontë's portrayal of love in light of this statement.

OR

(b) "... heaven did not seem to be my home ... and the angels were so angry that they flung me out." Discuss the theme of exile in Wuthering Heights in light of this quotation.

5. To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

(a) "Remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." Discuss the significance of the novel's title in light of this quotation.

OR

(b) 'In To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee explores the coexistence of good and evil.' Discuss.

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.

(Total: 33 marks)

Above the old man's head was the dovecote, a tall wire-netted shelf on stilts, full of strutting, preening birds. The sunlight broke on their grey breasts into small rainbows. His ears were lulled by their crooning, his hands stretched up towards the favourite, a homing pigeon, a young plump-bodied bird which stood still when it saw him and cocked a shrewd bright eye.

'Pretty, pretty,' he said, as he grasped the bird and drew it down, feeling the cold coral claws tighten around his finger. Content, he rested the bird lightly on his chest, and leaned against a tree, gazing out beyond the dovecote into the landscape of a late afternoon. In folds and hollows of sunlight and shade, the dark red soil, which was broken into great dusty clods, stretched wide to a tall horizon. Trees marked the course of the valley; a stream of rich green grass the road.

His eyes travelled homewards along this road until he saw his granddaughter swinging on the gate underneath a frangipani tree. Her hair fell down her back in a wave of sunlight, and her long bare legs repeated the angles of the frangipani stems, bare, shining-brown stems among patterns of pale blossoms.

She was gazing past the pink flowers, past the railway cottage where they lived, along the road to the village.

His mood shifted. He deliberately held out his wrist for the bird to take flight, and caught it again at the moment it spread its wings. He felt the plump shape strive and strain under his fingers; and, in a sudden access of troubled spite, shut the bird into a small box and fastened the bolt. 'Now you stay there,' he muttered; and turned his back on the shelf of birds. He moved warily along the hedge, stalking his granddaughter, who was now looped over the gate, her head loose on her arms, singing. The light happy sound mingled with the crooning of the birds, and his anger mounted.

'Hey!' he shouted; saw her jump, look back, and abandon the gate. Her eyes veiled themselves, and she said in a pert neutral voice: 'Hullo, Grandad.' Politely she moved towards him, after a lingering backward glance at the road.

'Waiting for Steven, hey?' he said, his fingers curling like claws into his palm. 'Any objection?' she asked lightly, refusing to look at him.

He confronted her, his eyes narrowed, shoulders hunched, tight in a hard knot of pain which included the preening birds, the sunlight, the flowers. He said: 'Think you're old enough to go courting, hey?'

The girl tossed her head at the old-fashioned phrase and sulked, 'Oh, Grandad!'



MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2023 FIRST SESSION

(Total: 33 marks)

SUBJECT: English

PAPER NUMBER: III

DATE: 15th May 2023

TIME: 4:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

Answer ALL sections.

SECTION A: LANGUAGE ESSAY

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

- 1. Narrate a story that restored your faith in humanity.
- 2. Describe the sounds that are the background noise of your life.
- 3. Facebook showed advertisers how it has the capacity to identify when teenagers feel 'insecure', 'worthless' and 'need a confidence boost', according to research conducted by the social network in 2017. Write about some of the implications of this statement.
- 4. Explain why you would rather work in a team or alone on a project.
- 5. Classroom debates are a great opportunity for students to develop in-demand skills for today's work environment. Write an opinion essay focusing on how classroom debates can contribute to students developing these skills.
- 6. However valuable, individual freedom is not absolute in a civilised and democratic community. Discuss.
- 7. Graffiti has come a long way. These days, fashion labels use it in their photo shoots and huge corporations include it in their advertising campaigns. Does graffiti classify as a work of art, in your view? Why or why not?
- 8. Despite various courses and options available today, too many teenagers are still not furthering their studies beyond compulsory education. Write about **TWO** factors that may be contributing to this and what may possibly be done to improve the situation.

SECTION B: SUMMARY (Total: 15 marks)

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

The use of technology in the classroom

Today's students are unlike any the educational system has ever experienced. Members of this generation are most often referred to as 'digital natives' because they have been immersed in technology since birth. They are expert computer gamers, whizzes on Facebook and Twitter, and most can text more words per minute than they can type. The saturation of technology in students' lives has produced an entirely different type of student, shaping the way they think, learn, and experience the world around them.

The influx of technology has produced many positive effects for students both in and out of the classroom. Because technology provides instantaneous gratification for the user, digital natives often appear to have shorter attention spans. The exact opposite is actually true. Research on the amount of time and attention children spend watching TV found that children who seem to be inattentive and distracted during activities are often 'soaking up' just as much information as those who appear completely engaged. In one experiment, a group of 5-year-old children were shown a television programme. Half of the children were shown the programme in a room filled with toys, while the other half watched the programme in a room free from distraction.

As expected, the group with toys was distracted and watched the show only about 47 percent of the time as opposed to 87 percent in the group without toys. But when the children were tested for how much of the show they remembered and understood, the scores were the same. The conclusions of the study suggest that the 5-year-olds in the toys group were attending quite strategically, distributing their attention between toy play and viewing so that they looked at, what was for them, the most informative part of the programme. This strategy allowed the children to attend to other matters, such as playing with toys while also efficiently watching television. The same concept applies in the traditional classroom. Digital natives are by practice multitaskers, often attending to multiple enjoyable activities while doing serious work.

The prevalence of technology in everyday life has shifted students towards a more visual learning style. Students, in turn, may not respond as well to traditional teaching methods that focus mainly on lecture and textbook reading. Accustomed to the twitch-speed, multitasking, random-access, graphics-first world of the Internet, students are bored by most of today's education, well-meaning as it may be. The integration of technology into the classroom setting allows teachers the benefit of providing rich learning experiences with which students can relate.

Unfortunately, despite the advantages technology offers, many teachers are still resistant to technology use in the classroom. The most prevalent reason is that they fear they will look stupid in front of their tech-savvy students because of their inability to effectively utilise technology in the classroom. This produces feelings of inadequacy, causing teachers to feel insecure and intimidated by technology use. Most teachers want to maintain a level of professionalism within the classroom and feel their limited abilities concerning the use of technology could render them unprofessional in front of their students. Teacher resistance to technology can also be caused by a lack of professional development regarding the use of technology as well as technical support for troubleshooting problems. Teachers who are properly trained to use the technology and have adequate technical support are much more likely to integrate technology into everyday lessons within the classroom than teachers who do not have this kind of support. Another possible reason teachers resist technology is because they do not feel that the benefit outweighs the time needed to learn and integrate the technology, or they do not see a true need for what the technology offers.

(Adapted from Hicks, 2011)

SECTION C: LINGUISTICS (Total: 33 marks)

Choose **ONE** question from this section.

- 1. Answer tasks a, b, c **AND** d.
- a. Copy the complete subject or subjects of the following sentences. The first sentence (0) is given to you as an example.
 - 0. Next week, all the biology students are visiting a botanical garden.
 - **0. Answer** all the biology students
 - i. On rainy days, the stretch of land between the villages became impassable.
 - ii. The new boy in class played the violin and Mary sang a song.
 - iii. Can you help the old lady carry those heavy bags?
 - iv. The old wooden box which my brother found in the garage is a rare antique.
 - v. The man walking his dog warned them, but the arrogant boys did not heed his advice.
 - vi. The bestselling novel 'A Man Forgotten' by Alan Smith is currently out of print.

(8)

- b. This exercise is concerned with Verbs. Answer each item in the exercise, paying attention to what each item expects of you.
 - Copy the following sentence and underline the main verb of the sentence:
 When the enemy was too close to the defences they had prepared, the soldiers in the fort fired their guns with impressive accuracy.
 - ii. Rewrite this sentence adding a primary auxiliary verb: They painted their house.
 - iii. Rewrite this sentence adding a modal auxiliary verb: They leave tomorrow.
 - iv. Change this sentence from passive voice to active voice:At the end of each session the students' work was collected by the teacher.
 - v. Change this sentence from active voice to passive voice: Each year, cats carry thousands of dead mice into their owners' home.

(5)

- c. Explain each of the following in a separate single paragraph of **NOT** more than 50 words. Each of your four paragraphs should include examples to support your explanation.
 - i. Denotation and connotation
 - ii. Lexical field
 - iii. Hyponyms and hypernyms
 - iv. Synonyms and antonyms

(12)

d. The following sentences include one or more subordinate (embedded) clauses. Copy the subordinate clause or clauses in each sentence.

The first sentence (0) is given to you as an example.

0. The boy who saved his friend received a medal for his bravery.

0. Answer who saved his friend

- i. Once the engine was fixed, the team from the expedition continued on its way.
- ii. Late one evening, when the owners had gone to bed, someone entered the shed where the children kept their bicycles.
- iii. I understand all the workers who are finding it difficult to cope.
- iv. Whenever she comes to visit, she brings a kind of sweet which is a local delicacy.
- v. The ship suddenly tilted as if it were going to capsize.
- vi. Most of the research carried out in the last ten years suggests an increase in the earth's temperature.

(8)

OR

 Distinguished by pronunciation, grammar, and/or vocabulary, a dialect is a variety of a language that signals **not** only where a person comes from but also has some application in relation to a person's social background or occupation. Write an essay of about 400 words explaining this definition of dialect. Include examples to support your explanations in the essay.

(33)

OR

- 3. In about 400 words, discuss the newspaper article on the following page (page 5), paying particular attention to its:
 - Graphology
 - Headlines
 - Vocabulary
 - Grammar
 - Tone
 - Structure

The text of the article is reproduced on page 6 for ease of reading.

(33)

Editor in Marrakech From Mark Palmer Travel

stop Britons from going INFLATION is rampant and winter fuel bills are about to kick in - but that's not enough to on their holidays.

Almost two-thirds are planning a trip abroad in the next 12 months despite the cost of living crunch, researchers say

willing to cut back on costs A poll found adults are more such as clothes shopping and

eating out than holidays.
And the research, by the Britons planned to spend more on holidays next year than in 2022 while 46 per cent travel trade association Abta. found that nearly a third of would spend the same.

'The lifting of the UK's year unleashed a surge in overseas holidays and this is likely to continue even though we face an uncertain year ahead given the economic challenges,' said Mark Tanzer, travel rules this

Launching its Holiday Habcent of those it polled would cut back on eating out to would reduce leisure activities its 2022 report at its Travel Morocco, Abta said 55 per Convention in Marrakech, Nearly half, 48 per cent, cover the rising cost of living. Abta's chief executive.

of respondents now say they will pay closer attention to following the pandemic travel chaos, more than 60 per cent the terms and conditions of back if things go wrong. And bookings before paying.

comes to favourite destinations, with Spain coming out Mr Tanzer said the travel on top, followed by France, the US and Italy.

during the next 12 months.

Saving for another holiday, I see?" 3

> overseas trips' 'A surge in

demic, with almost two-thirds operator or travel agent this year than before the panof holidaymakers now taking this type of trip.

Ease of booking was their main motivation, followed by knowing they stand a better chance of getting their money

Old habits prevail when it shopping for clothes, shoes while 40 per cent would limit and accessories. Just over a third said they would cut back a significant comeback. More the package holiday has made people booked with a tour The research also revealed

on holiday spending.

sector still would be battling strong economic headwinds

But he said travel 'has potential to grow by 15 per given the right regulatory and fiscal environment'. He urged the Government to freeze Air Passenger Duty to help the cent over the next five years industry achieve this.

We'd rather cut back on clothes than our holidays

Inflation is rampant and winter fuel bills are about to kick in – but that's not enough to stop Britons from going on their holidays.

Almost two-thirds are planning a trip abroad in the next 12 months despite the cost of living crunch, researchers say.

A poll found adults are more willing to cut back on costs such as clothes shopping and eating out than holidays.

And the research, by the travel trade association Abta, found that nearly a third of Britons planned to spend more on holidays next year than in 2022 while 46 per cent would spend the same.

'The lifting of the UK's travel rules this year unleashed a surge in overseas holidays and this is likely to continue even though we face an uncertain year ahead given the economic challenges,' said Mark Tanzer, Abta's chief executive.

Launching its Holiday Habits 2022 report at its Travel Convention in Marrakech, Morocco, Abta said 55 per cent of those it polled would cut back on eating out to cover the rising cost of living.

Nearly half, 48 per cent, would reduce leisure activities while 40 per cent would limit shopping for clothes, shoes and accessories. Just over a third said they would cut back on holiday spending.

The research also revealed the package holiday has made a significant comeback. More people booked with a tour operator or travel agent this year than before the pandemic, with almost two-thirds of holidaymakers now taking this type of trip.

Ease of booking was their main motivation, followed by knowing they stand a better chance of getting their money back if things go wrong. And, following the pandemic travel chaos, more than 60 per cent of respondents now say they will pay closer attention to the terms and conditions of bookings before paying.

Old habits prevail when it comes to favourite destinations, with Spain coming out on top, followed by France, the US and Italy.

Mr Tanzer said the travel sector still would be battling 'strong economic headwinds' during the next 12 months.

But he said travel 'has potential to grow by 15 per cent over the next five years, given the right regulatory and fiscal environment'. He urged the Government to freeze Air Passenger Duty to help the industry achieve this.