

Index Number: _____

SEC12/1.12m

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

MAY 2012 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Literature
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	15 th May 2012
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Answer both sections

Candidates are reminded that:

- it is not necessary to repeat the words of the question in the answer.
- as far as possible, answers should be limited to the lines provided.

Section A	Section B	TOTAL

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

SECTION A

Read the following poem carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

Bruises Heal

Names, cold shoulders,
Silence in the canteen;
her words are scalpels,¹
Cutting self esteem.

¹*small knives used for surgery*

- 5 'Stuck up little cow!
Thinks she's really it!
Laughter slices, she prescribes
A sharp, unfunny wit.

- 10 Ridiculed for standing out,
My marks are much too high
And so she drip-feeds saline² hate,
injecting with a lie.

²*containing salt*

- 15 She's bright, she'll find
The weakest spot to pierce and prod and poke.
She uses stealth,³ and poisoned words
And wears them like a cloak.

³*hidden ways*

- 20 It seems I am her favourite game
And I'm the one who loses,
if she'd done this with her fists,
At least there would be bruises.

Andrew Fusek Peters *and* Polly Peters

- 1 Underline the correct answer.

This poem is about:

- a) a hospital experience.
- b) a school-yard fight.
- c) bullying.
- d) a school prize day.

(2 marks)

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

- 2 Comment on the use of direct speech in lines 5 and 6.

(2 marks)

- 3 What image does the word 'cloak' suggest in the quote below?

'She uses stealth, and poisoned words
And wears them like a cloak.' (lines 15-16)

(3 marks)

- 4 Read the quote below:

'The weakest spot to pierce and prod and poke' (line 14)

- a) In this line there is a repetition of initial consonant sounds. Name this figure of speech.

(1 mark)

- b) Comment on the effect of this repetition in the quotation.

(2 marks)

- 5 The noun 'laughter' and the verb 'slices' are not normally used together. In your opinion, what is the effect the poets want to achieve?

'Laughter slices' (line 7)

(3 marks)

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

- 6 Re-read the first stanza and note the poets' use of short phrases. Explain what effect these short phrases create.

(3 marks)

- 7 Explain how the title *Bruises Heal* captures the persona's hurt feelings.

(3 marks)

- 8 The poem includes various images from the world of medicine. Grounding your answer in some of these images, write a paragraph explaining their effectiveness.

(6 marks)

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

SECTION B

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

A Grave Misunderstanding

I am a dog. I think you ought to know right away. I don't want to save it up for later, because you might begin to wonder what sort of person it was who went about on all fours, sniffing at everything and doing his business against lampposts in the public street. You wouldn't like it; and I don't suppose you'd care to have anything to do with me.

5 The truth of the matter is, we have different standards. For instance, although we are as fond of a good walk as the next person, love puppies and a good juicy piece of meat, we don't go much on reading. We find it hard to turn the pages. But on the other paw, a good deep snoutful of mingled air as it comes humming off a rubbish dump can be as teasing to us as a sonnet. Indeed, there are rhymes in rancid odours such as you'd never dream of; and every puddle tells a story.

10 We see things too. Only the other day, when me and my Person were out walking, and going as brisk as biscuits, through that green and quiet place of marble trees and stony, lightless lampposts, where people bury their bones and never dig them up, I saw a ghost. I stopped. I glared. I growled. My hair stood up on end.

'What the devil's the matter with you now?' demanded my Person.

15 'What a beautiful dog!' said the ghost, who knew that I knew what she was, and that we both knew that my Person did not.

She was the lifeless, meaningless shell of a young female person whose bones lay not very far away. No heart beat within her, there was wind in her veins, and she smelled of worm crumble and pine.

20 'Thank you,' said my Person, with a foolishly desiring smile. 'He is rather a handsome animal. Won best of breed in the last dog show.' The way to his heart was always open through praise of me.

'*SHE'S DEAD – SHE'S DEAD!*'

25 'Stop barking!' said my Person. 'Don't be frightened. He wouldn't hurt a fly. Do you come here often?'

'Every day,' murmured the ghost, with a sly look towards her bones. She moved a little nearer to my Person. A breeze sprang up, and I could smell it blowing right through her, like frozen flowers. 'He looks very fierce,' said the ghost. 'Are you sure that he's kind?'

'*COME AWAY – COME AWAY!*'

30 'Stop barking!' commanded my Person and looked at the ghost with springtime in his eyes. If only he could have smelled the dust inside her head and heard the silence inside her breast! But it was no good. All he could see was a silken smile. He was only a person, and blindly trusted his eyes.

35 'Dogs,' said the ghost, 'should be kept on a lead in the cemetery. There's a notice on the gate.' She knew that I knew where she was buried, and that I could easily dig up her bones.

My Person obeyed; and the ghost looked at me as if to say, 'Now you'll never be able to show him that I'm dead!'

'*SHE'S COLD! SHE'S EMPTY! SHE'S DEAD!*'

40 'Stop barking!' shouted my Person, and, dragging me after, walked on, already half in love with the loveless ghost. We passed very close to her bones. I could smell them, could hear the little nibblers dryly rustling. I pulled, I strained, I jerked to dig up her secret.

'He looks so wild!' said the ghost. 'Are you sure he doesn't have a fever?'

'He only wants to run off and play,' said my Person. 'Do you live near here?'

'*YES! YES! RIGHT BY THAT MARBLE LAMPPOST! SIX PAWS DEEP IN THE EARTH!*'

45 'Stop barking!' said my Person. 'Do you want to wake up the dead?'

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

- 1 Underline the correct answer.

The text is written in the:

- a) first person narrative.
- b) third person narrative.
- c) three persons narrative.

(1 mark)

- 2 Limiting your answer to paragraphs one and two, underline the word, you feel, best describes the dog and explain your choice.

humble self-confident stupid

(3 marks)

- 3 Explain the effectiveness of these three sentences in lines 12-13.

I stopped. I glared. I growled.

(2 marks)

- 4 What effect does the repetition of the word 'knew' have in this sentence (lines 15-16)?

'What a beautiful dog!' said the ghost, who knew that I knew what she was, and that we both knew that my Person did not.

(3 marks)

- 5 Why does the Person say 'Stop barking' every time the dog 'says' something? What is the effect of this exchange between the dog and the Person?

(2 marks)

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

- 6 The author uses negative language when describing the dog’s view of the ghost and positive language when referring to the owner’s view of the ghost. Limiting your answer to lines 27 – 33, quote and explain the effectiveness of one negative phrase and one positive phrase.

- 7 a) Name the literary device underlined in these two sentences (lines 7-9)

(4 marks)

But on the other paw, a good deep snoutful of mingled air as it comes humming off a rubbish dump can be as teasing to us as a sonnet. Indeed, there are rhymes in rancid odours such as you’d never dream of; and every puddle tells a story.

(1 mark)

- b) What aspect of the dog’s character does the author reveal in these two sentences?

- 8 Supporting your answer with references to the passage, write a paragraph explaining what you find humorous/funny in this story.

(3 marks)

(6 marks)

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SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL
MAY 2012 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Literature
PAPER NUMBER:	IIA
DATE:	16 th May 2012
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Answer all Sections
Each section carries equal marks

SECTION A: DRAMA

Answer ONE question only on ONE text.

MACBETH (W. Shakespeare)

1 **MACBETH**

Wherefore was that cry?

SEYTON

The queen, my lord, is dead.

MACBETH

She should have died hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word –
Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

- a. What are the immediate circumstances in which these words are spoken?
 - b. Macbeth appears to react to Lady Macbeth's death with bitterness and indifference rather than sorrow. What does this tell us about the changes his character has undergone since the beginning of the play?
- 2 At the opening of the play, Macbeth and his wife are so ambitious that this blinds them to the consequences of murdering Duncan. Discuss.
- 3 Shakespeare uses symbols (e.g. blood, weather, darkness, animals, dagger etc.) to heighten the audience's understanding and enjoyment of the play? Choose any two symbols (not necessarily those given as examples) and write about their significance in the play.

TWELFTH NIGHT (W. Shakespeare)

4 **ANTONIO**

A witchcraft drew me hither.
That most ingrateful boy there by your side,
From the rude sea's enraged and foamy mouth
Did I redeem; a wreck past hope he was.
His life I gave him, and did thereto add
My love without retention or restraint,
All his in dedication. For his sake,
Did I expose myself, pure for his love,
Into the danger of this adverse town,
Drew to defend him when he was beset;
Where being apprehended his false cunning...
....denied me my own purse,
Which I had recommended to his use
Not half an hour before.

- a. Explain the immediate circumstances in which these words are spoken. Whom is Antonio speaking about here and who is the 'boy' who actually stands before him?
 - b. In what ways has Antonio shown himself to be an exceptionally loyal and selfless friend?
 - c. In what ways does the element of disguise help to complicate events in the play?
- 5 In *Twelfth Night* the female characters appear to be more cunning than the male characters. Discuss.
- 6 In Act III, Sc.1, Viola, talking about Feste, says, 'This fellow is wise enough to play the fool.' In what ways is Feste a 'wise fool' in *Twelfth Night*?

THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL (W. Hall)

- 7 Write an essay about the part played by the radio in the play.
- 8 Explain some of the negative effects of war as portrayed by Willis Hall in *The Long and the Short and the Tall*.
- 9 'Willis Hall's *The Long and the Short and the Tall* is remarkable for being a play in which, though all the British characters are in the same wretched situation, the playwright gives each one characteristics which make him immediately recognisable.' Discuss this statement with reference to two characters.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE (T. Williams)

- 10 Laura is a victim of a world in which everyone steps on everyone else in order to survive. Discuss how this statement applies to her character in *The Glass Menagerie*.
- 11 'Tom's opening speech is important in that it establishes the main themes developed in *The Glass Menagerie*.' Discuss.
- 12 Write about the ways in which the absent father still influences the characters in *The Glass Menagerie*.

BURNING EVEREST and MARIZA’S STORY (A. Flynn and M. Celeste)

- 13 ‘In an effort to save Jim at the quarry, Miranda tells him, ‘*You can’t climb mountains on your own.*’ Explain the significance of these words in *Burning Everest*.
- 14 Write about the contrasts between the opening and closing scene in *Mariza’s Story*.
- 15 There are similarities in the way Adriann Flynn and Michele Celeste create a sense of tension and release that tension at the end of *Burning Everest* and *Mariza’s Story*. How is tension created and solved in the final stages of these plays?

SECTION B: POETRY

Answer ONE question only.

THE NEW DRAGON BOOK OF VERSE

- 1 An underlying sense of helplessness can be felt in *My Parents Kept Me From Children Who Were Rough* and *Dulce Et Decorum Est*. Discuss how the two poems vividly bring across this feeling in such different circumstances.
- 2 Leaving a lasting memory of oneself is a desire expressed in *The Soldier* and *Sonnet LX*. Explain how this concern is addressed in these two poems.
- 3 Explain how Reeves and Hughes bring out the power of nature in *The Sea* and *Wind*.

THE CALLING OF KINDRED

- 4 Explain how A. Tennyson attempts to present a glorified view of war in *The Charge of the Light Brigade*.
- 5 *Piano* and *My Heart Leaps* are both concerned with the passing of time. Explain how the poets express their thoughts in these two poems.
- 6 How do P.B. Shelley and E. Thomas bring to the reader the experiences and reflections of the travellers in *Ozymandias* and *The Owl*?

SECTION C: PROSE

Answer ONE question only on ONE text.

KING OF SHADOWS (S. Cooper)

- 1 *King of Shadows* is neither a fantasy nor a historical novel but a mix of both. Show how this is a valid description of the novel.
- 2 In Chapter One, Nat reveals to the other children that his parents are dead. Explain how this fact is central to Nat's behaviour and experiences in the novel.

THE TIME MACHINE (H.G. Wells)

- 3 Write about the contrast between idleness and hard work in *The Time Machine*.
- 4 The Time Traveller is constantly the odd one out – he is the only one familiar with the mysteries of time travel and he is neither an Eloi nor a Morlock. What does the protagonist's 'aloneness' contribute to his characterisation in the novel?

THE GREAT AUTOMATIC GRAMMATIZATOR AND OTHER STORIES (R. Dahl)

- 5 In almost all of Dahl's fiction, adults, particularly those who want to seem important, are made fun of. Show how true this is with reference to two short stories.
- 6 The 'umbrella man' is introduced as 'a small man...pretty old, probably seventy or more' while the landlady gives Billy 'a warm welcoming smile.' Write about the way R. Dahl develops a misleading impression of these two characters and how they are eventually exposed for what they are.

ANIMAL FARM (G. Orwell)

- 7 The seventh commandment of Animalism is 'All animals are equal.' Write about the importance of this statement with reference to what happens in *Animal Farm*.
- 8 Even though the animals agree that they will not have any contact with humans, Napoleon's lifestyle eventually comes to resemble that of humans. By selecting important incidents in the novel, explain how and why this happens.

PRIVATE PEACEFUL (M. Morpurgo)

- 9 In *Private Peaceful*, death is ever-present. Choose two characters and explain how they feel and react when they experience death.
- 10 *Private Peaceful* takes the reader back nearly a hundred years. Write about some of the realities of that time you became aware of through your reading of the novel.

THE OTHER SIDE OF TRUTH (B. Naidoo)

- 11 Show how by describing the life of a refugee through the eyes of child protagonists, Beverley Naidoo could show even better the difficulties refugees face away from their home in a new country.
- 12 Write about some of the reasons why you feel '*The Other Side of Truth*' is a good title for this novel.

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MAY 2012 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Literature
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB
DATE:	16 th May 2012
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Answer all Sections
Each section carries equal marks

SECTION A: DRAMA

Answer ONE question only on ONE text.

MACBETH (W. Shakespeare)

- 1 In what ways do the characters of King Duncan and, later, his son Malcolm, contrast with that of Macbeth in the play?
- 2 Early on in the play, Banquo refers to the witches as 'instruments of darkness', who win people over with 'honest trifles' to betray them 'in deepest consequence'. Show how this is true of the Witches' prophecies to Macbeth.
- 3 Write an essay about the part played by ambition in *Macbeth*.

TWELFTH NIGHT (W. Shakespeare)

- 4 Malvolio is the servant of Countess Olivia; Viola/Cesario is the servant of Duke Orsino. Compare and contrast the two servants.
- 5 In Act IV Sc. 2 the Clown, disguised as Sir Topas, says that 'there is no darkness but ignorance.' With reference to one character, show how this character grows wiser by the end of the play.
- 6 Write about some of the mistakes the characters make in *Twelfth Night*, and the reasons behind them.

THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL (W. Hall)

- 7 What part do fear and suspicion play in determining the British soldiers' behaviour in *The Long and the Short and the Tall*?
- 8 Write about the details in the play *The Long and the Short and the Tall* which make it particularly realistic.
- 9 Early on in the play, Private Evans argues that things are different when there is a war. Focusing on two characters, show how Hall succeeds in bringing out their different attitudes to war.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE (T. Williams)

- 10 'The audience can easily get irritated by Amanda's personality but still like her and sympathise with her.' Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.
- 11 Explain how Laura's encounter with Jim has a positive effect on her.
- 12 Write about the way two characters in *The Glass Menagerie* are trapped in their own fantasy lives.

BURNING EVEREST and MARIZA'S STORY (A. Flynn and M. Celeste)

- 13 Write about two of the following male characters in *Burning Everest*:

Alan Welland Stubby Mr. Bryant

- 14 In the opening scene of *Mariza's Story*, Tania asks her mother whether people are kind and the mother answers '*Not to those like us.*' With close reference to the play, show how correct or otherwise her mother is when she says this.
- 15 Write about some aspects of human behaviour that are explored by the authors in both *Burning Everest* and *Mariza's Story*.

SECTION B: POETRY

Answer ONE question only.

THE NEW DRAGON BOOK OF VERSE

- 1 *Uphill* and *A Small Dragon* are rather short poems but there is much thought in them. Explain in full the ideas that the poets express in these poems.
- 2 Explore how the poems, *The Discovery* and *The Lesson*, present different ways in which people react to sudden unpleasant changes in their lives.
- 3 *Wind* and *My Parents Kept Me From Children Who Were Rough* describe different threatening situations. How are these dangers and the reactions to them vividly portrayed in these poems?

THE CALLING OF KINDRED

- 4 Write about the way the speaker reflects on her grandmother in *My Grandmother*.
- 5 Explain how the speakers express their thoughts about death in *An Irishman Foresees His Death* and *When I Have Fears That I may Cease To Be*.
- 6 Which two poems did you enjoy most? Briefly say what the poems talk about and why you liked them.

SECTION C: PROSE

Answer ONE question only on ONE text.

KING OF SHADOWS (S. Cooper)

- 1 In *King of Shadows* Susan Cooper explores a number of contrasts to the reader. Write about two of these contrasts.
- 2 Chapter Ten begins with the sentence, 'So I found myself in the house where Will Shakespeare lived, and where, for the time being, he wrote his plays and his poems.' Write about some of Nat Field's experiences that result from his being so close to the famous playwright.

Section C continues on the next page.

THE TIME MACHINE (H.G. Wells)

- 3 Write about the lifestyle of the Morlocks as this is described in Wells' novella.
- 4 In real life, H.G. Wells was a man who hated class distinctions and believed in equality for all human beings. How does this come across in *The Time Machine*?

THE GREAT AUTOMATIC GRAMMATIZATOR AND OTHER STORIES (R. Dahl)

- 5 In an introduction to the collection of stories, Wendy Cooling writes that '*Roald Dahl's work...has long been loved by young people and has switched many of them on to books.*' If you had to recommend two stories from the collection to a friend who does not read a lot, which two stories would you recommend and why?
- 6 A number of characters in the stories try to outsmart others. With close reference to two different stories write about two such characters.

ANIMAL FARM (G. Orwell)

- 7 Describe some of the methods used by Napoleon to become and remain leader of the farm.
- 8 While nearly all the animals are somehow actively involved in the politics of the farm, a few others do not want to take part. Write about two such animals.

PRIVATE PEACEFUL (M. Morpurgo)

- 9 *Private Peaceful* explores different types of suffering. Write about two of these supporting your answer with evidence from the text.
- 10 In the novel, Michael Morpurgo makes the reader follow a soldier's journey from his home in England to the battlefields in France. Write about two of Tommo's experiences on this journey.

THE OTHER SIDE OF TRUTH (B. Naidoo)

- 11 The two sharp cracks in the first few lines kill the mother but definitely not the importance of family to Sade and Femi. Write about the importance of feeling part of a family in *The Other Side of Truth*.
- 12 Write about two of these characters in the novel:

Mariam Mr Morris Mama Appiah