

SEC SYLLABUS (2011)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

SEC 12

SYLLABUS

English Literature SEC Syllabus

(*Not available in September)

Paper I (2 hrs): Poetry+Prose &/or Drama+Paper II (2 hrs): Poetry+Prose+Drama

Introduction

The syllabus which is here presented has been designed to lead to an examination that covers texts written in English.

1. Aims

The aims of a course in English Literature leading to the award of a Secondary Education Certificate should be:

- to promote a love and appreciation of Literature and of reading in English;
- to give candidates the opportunity to respond in different ways to different types of literary texts;
- to engage candidates in exploring different cultural backgrounds as evidenced in texts;
- to support the teaching of English through the interface of language and literature.

2. Assessment Objectives

Paper I

Candidates are expected to:

- answer all questions in English;
- recognise differences between prose (fiction and non-fiction); poetry and drama;
- recognise differences within a range of literary forms and purposes (e.g. biography, autobiography, sonnet, lyric);
- extract meaning beyond the literal;
- explain how choice of language (e.g. vocabulary, syntax, figures of speech and other literary devices and linguistic features) can be used to achieve different purposes and subsequently affects the reader's response.

Paper IIA

In addition to objectives set out for Paper I, candidates are expected to:

- show both a general and a detailed knowledge of the chosen texts as well as an awareness of plot, theme, characterisation and style;
- give a personal response to the chosen works supported by both reference to and quotation from the text;
- show an awareness of the connection between people and the time and cultures they live in as revealed in the texts;
- show an awareness of drama as text and in performance.

Paper IIB

In addition to objectives set out for Paper I, candidates are expected to:

- show a general comprehension of the text including an understanding of plot, characterisation and theme;
- show a personal response to the chosen works supported by reference to texts.

3. Scheme of Assessment

The examination will consist of two papers of two hours' duration each.

Paper I (50% of the global mark). This paper is to be taken by all candidates.

Paper II (50% of the global mark). There will be two versions of this paper: Paper IIA and Paper IIB. Candidates are required to indicate on the registration form which Paper II they wish to sit for. No change in the choice of paper will be allowed after the registration period. Paper IIA will comprise questions that are more demanding than those in Paper IIB.

4. Results

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIA may qualify for a grade within the range 1 to 5 (i.e. Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5); the results of candidates who do not obtain a Grade 5 shall remain Unclassified (U).

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIB may qualify for a grade not higher than 4 (i.e. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7); the results of candidates who do not obtain at least a Grade 7 shall remain Unclassified (U).

5. Syllabus – Subject content

Paper I (2 hours) (50%)

The paper shall be divided into two Sections.

There will be two compulsory questions of equal weighting, one in each section. Section One will consist of an unprepared text of poetry and Section Two of an unprepared text of prose and/or drama followed by a series of questions. (All answers are to be written on the examination paper).

Among others, texts such as, or similar to, the following:

- a) *Chapter and Verse* by John McRae and Luisa Pantaleoni (Oxford University Press)
 - b) *Language of Literature* by David Clarke (Cambridge University Press)
 - c) *Understanding and Response* by Roy Dyche (Heinemann)
 - d) *Cambridge Poetry Workshop* by Lynn and Jeffrey Wood (Cambridge University Press)
- are recommended for class practice. However, examination questions will not be based on any of the above-mentioned texts.

Paper II (2 hours) (50%)

Candidates are required to answer a question on three of the prescribed texts. One text from each of Sections One, Two, and Three must be chosen. In the Drama section, questions may include those of the ‘gobbet’ type.

Section One: DRAMA

- a) *Twelfth Night*, W. Shakespeare
- b) *Macbeth*, W. Shakespeare
- c) *Burning Everest & Mariza’s Story*, Adrian Flynn & Michelle Celeste (Heinemann Educational)*
- d) *The Long and the Short and the Tall*, Willis Hall (Heinemann Educational)*
- e) *The Glass Menagerie*, Tennessee Williams (Heinemann Educational)*

*These editions are highly recommended.

Section Two: POETRY

Selected poems from:

- a) *The New Dragon Book of Verse* ed. Harrison & Stuart Clark (Oxford University Press)
- or**
- b) *The Calling of Kindred* ed. Adrian Barlow (Cambridge University Press)

Candidates will be required to write about one or more of the 12 poems in the prescribed list (below) of their chosen anthology. Candidates will be asked to answer one question. There will be a choice of three questions on each prescribed list.

Selected poems from *The New Dragon Book of Verse*:

<i>Wind;</i>	<i>The Lesson;</i>	<i>A Small Dragon;</i>
<i>The Sea;</i>	<i>The Discovery;</i>	<i>Ozymandias;</i>
<i>The Tiger;</i>	<i>The Soldier;</i>	<i>Uphill;</i>
<i>My Parents Kept me from</i>	<i>Dulce et Decorum Est;</i>	<i>Sonnet LX.</i>
<i>Children who were Rough;</i>		

Selected poems from *The Calling of Kindred*:

<i>Ozymandias;</i>	<i>Our father;</i>	<i>The Owl;</i>
<i>The Charge of the Light</i>	<i>Piano;</i>	<i>As I walked out one evening;</i>
<i>Brigade;</i>	<i>An Irish Airman Foresees his</i>	<i>When I have fears that I may</i>
<i>My Heart Leaps;</i>	<i>Death;</i>	<i>cease to be;</i>
<i>My Grandmother;</i>	<i>The Tiger;</i>	<i>Grandfather.</i>

Section Three: PROSE

- 1) *The Time Machine*, H.G.Wells
- 2) *The Great Automatic Grammatizator and other Stories*, Roald Dahl
- 3) *Animal Farm*, George Orwell
- 4) *King of Shadows*, Susan Cooper (Heinemann) ISBN 0435125389
- 5) *Private Peaceful*, Michael Morpurgo (Harper Collins) ISBN 0007150075
- 6) *The Other Side of Truth*, Beverley Naidoo (New Windmills Fiction - Heinemann) ISBN 0435125303

Grade Descriptors

Grade I

Candidate shows full understanding of the requirements of the questions and is able to respond coherently with evidence of both knowledge of text and insight. Arguments are well organized, relevant and consistent, reflected through an acceptable use of language.

Grade 5

Candidate shows adequate knowledge and understanding of text but response is not well-organized. There is some evidence of insight and ability to support arguments with textual references, but arguments are not always directly relevant and there is a tendency to narrate. Language is adequate for basic communication rather than for analytical comment.

Grade 7

Candidate shows evidence of poor knowledge and understanding of text, with a few exceptions, and is unable to deal with the requirements of the questions. There is haphazard or even careless organisation of question content with irrelevant information. Use of English (i.e. usage, syntax, spelling) is poor.