OXFORD AQA

INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL GCSE
ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 2A Poetry and unseen texts

Monday 28 October 2024 07:00 GMT Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:
- an OxfordAQA 16-page Answer Book
- a clean copy of the OxfordAQA International Poetry Anthology *People and Places*.

Instructions
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Do **not** use pencil.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
- Answer **one** question from **Section A**.
- Answer the question in **Section B and** the question in **Section C**.
- For **Section A**, you must have a clean copy of the OxfordAQA International Poetry Anthology *People and Places* in the examination room.
- The text must **not** be annotated and must **not** contain additional notes or materials.

Information
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 30 marks available for each section.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.

Section A: Poetry Anthology: People and Places

Answer **one** question from **Section A**.

Either

0 1 Read the poem below and answer the question that follows.

The Planners

The poem *The Planners* by Kim Cheng Boey cannot be reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions.

The poem is on page 18 of the OxfordAQA International GCSE English Literature people and places anthology.

Kim Cheng Boey

Write about the ways that poets present change in *The Planners* and **one** other poem from *People and Places*.

[30 marks]

or

0 2 Write about **one or more** poems from *People and Places* which show how damage and its effects on people are presented.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B: Unseen poetry

Answer **Question 3**.

0 3 Read the poem below and answer the question that follows.

The speaker of the poem is the mirror.

Mirror

I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions*.
Whatever I see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
I am not cruel, only truthful,
The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
I think it is part of my heart. But it flickers.
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.

Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,
Searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.
I see her back, and reflect it faithfully.
She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.
I am important to her. She comes and goes.
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.

Sylvia Plath

*preconceptions – what you believe before you know the facts of the situation

How does the poet present the mirror, and the mirror's effects?

[30 marks]

Section C: Unseen prose

Answer **Question 4**.

0 4 Read the passage below from the novel *Lessons* by Ian McEwan and then answer the question that follows.

In this passage, a schoolboy has discovered that he needs glasses to see properly.

The text extract from *Lessons* by Ian McEwan cannot be reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions.

The extract is from pages 59-60 (in the Vintage paperback edition) and it begins and ends as follows: 'Ten days after his visit to… delighting in its own existence.'

*optician – a person who tests people's eyes

How does the writer present the schoolboy's emotions in this passage?

[30 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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