S6 Literature in English Practice Paper (Set 2): Poetry, Prose, Drama and Comparative Criticism

S6 Literature in English | Time: 90 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 24 questions

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Section A: Unseen Poetry (16 marks)

Read the following poem, "Market Morning", and answer the questions.

1. (a) How does the poem use imagery to present the market moving from morning to noon? Refer to two images and explain their effect. (4 marks)

2. (b) Analyse the effect of the simile "Others lift their voices like nets over the crowd". (4 marks)

3. (c) How does the tone shift in the third stanza? Support your answer with words from the poem. (4 marks)

4. (d) How does the structure, a single unbroken stanza moving through time, shape your understanding of the theme? (4 marks)

Section B: Narrative Voice in Prose (17 marks)

Read the following extract from an original short story and answer the questions.

5. (a) What narrative perspective is used, and how does it limit what you know about the father? (4 marks)

6. (b) What is the effect of the repetition of "eleven years"? (4 marks)

7. (c) How does the extract use detail to create atmosphere? Give two examples. (4 marks)

8. (d) How does the final sentence, "in English, which was the language he used when he wanted the conversation to be short", summarise the relationship in the extract? (5 marks)

Section C: Shakespearean Drama (17 marks)

The following questions concern Macbeth, Act 3 Scene 4, the banquet and the appearance of the Ghost.

9. (a) At the banquet Macbeth sees Banquo's Ghost while the guests do not. What dramatic irony does this produce? (4 marks)

10. (b) Analyse Macbeth's language in this scene: how do broken syntax and repetition reflect his mental state? (4 marks)

11. (c) As a director, how would you stage the Ghost so that the audience understands both Macbeth's position and the guests'? (5 marks)

12. (d) How does the banquet advance the play's theme that power cannot be made secure? (4 marks)

Section D: Tragedy in the Novel (16 marks)

The following questions concern Okonkwo in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart.

13. (a) The novel says Okonkwo's whole life was dominated by fear. What is the source of that fear? (4 marks)

14. (b) How do proverbs and public speech build his authority, and how do they expose its limits? (4 marks)

15. (c) To what extent is his tragedy caused by character and to what extent by historical circumstance? (4 marks)

16. (d) The novel does not narrate his death but shows the District Commissioner finding the body. What is the effect of ending this way? (4 marks)

Section E: Comparative Criticism (17 marks)

Base your answers on how Macbeth and Things Fall Apart each treat appearance and reality.

17. (a) Write one defensible thesis for this comparison and explain why it is more than a statement of sameness or difference. (4 marks)

18. (b) Give one specific piece of textual evidence from each text in support of that thesis. (4 marks)

19. (c) Some would argue this comparison ignores the difference of genre. How would you respond? (5 marks)

20. (d) Which of the two presents appearance and reality more disturbingly? Make a judgement and state your criteria. (4 marks)

Section F: Language, Form and Structure (17 marks)

Draw on the texts above to answer these questions on technique and critical judgement.

21. (a) Explain how line breaks make meaning, using the first stanza of the poem in Section A. (4 marks)

22. (b) Using the extract in Section B, explain how sentence length answers the relationship between characters. (4 marks)

23. (c) A critic claims the tragedy of Macbeth is caused entirely by language. How far do you agree? (4 marks)

24. (d) You have 90 minutes for this paper. Explain how you would divide the time and identify one common reason for lost marks. (5 marks)

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