



GCE A level

414/01

**ENGLISH LITERATURE
ELit4: Poetry pre-1900**

P.M. MONDAY, 8 June 2009

1¼ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need

- a copy of the text you have studied;
- an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question only.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry equal marks.

In this unit you will be assessed on your ability to:

- communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression;
- show detailed understanding of the ways in which writers' choices of form, structure and language shape meanings;
- articulate independent opinions and judgements, informed by different interpretations of literary texts by other readers.

Remember that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answer.

Answer one question only.

Chaucer: The Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale

Either,

1. 'Moral lessons are the most important aspect of *The Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale*.' Do you agree? In your response, you should refer in detail to Chaucer's techniques.

Or,

2. 'The character of Chauntecleer is no more than an excuse for the Nun's Priest to speak his mind.' How far do you agree with this assessment? Your discussion should include close analysis of Chaucer's techniques.

Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson

Or,

3. 'Dickinson's poetry is much too self-centred to be of general interest.' How fair is this comment on Dickinson's work? Through close analysis of Dickinson's techniques in at least **three** poems, explore how far you agree with this statement.

Or,

4. To what extent do you agree that 'Dickinson's poetry is uplifting and inspirational'? Make close reference to Dickinson's use of form, structure and language in at least **three** of the selected poems.

Graham (ed): A Selection of Metaphysical Poets
(Donne, Herbert and Vaughan)

Or,

5. 'Exploration is the main theme of Donne's poetry.' Do you agree? Support your argument with close reference to Donne's use of language, form and structure in at least **three** of the set poems.

Or,

6. 'Poems that explore nothing more than man's relationship with God.' How far is this true of Herbert's and Vaughan's poetry? In your response, make close reference to language, form and structure in at least **three** of the set poems, making sure that your chosen poems represent the work of **both** poets.

Keats: Selected Poems

Or,

7. 'Keats's poetry is preoccupied with the idea of beauty.' How far do you agree with this judgement? In your response you should include detailed reference to Keats's techniques in at least **two** of the set poems.

Or,

8. To what extent do you agree that 'Keats's odes are far superior to his other poems'? Make close reference to Keats's use of form, structure and language in at least **two** of the set poems in your response.

Milton: Paradise Lost, Books 1 and 2

Or,

9. To what extent do you agree that 'morality is the main concern of *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2*'? In your response you should include detailed reference to Milton's techniques.

Or,

10. 'The character of Satan is essentially very human.' Discuss the presentation of Satan in *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2* in the light of this comment. Your response should pay close attention to Milton's use of language, form and structure.

Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems

Or,

11. 'Rossetti's poetry is most successful when it appeals to the senses.' How far would you agree with this view? In your answer you should refer to at least **three** of the set poems, **or** *Goblin Market*, making close reference to Rossetti's use of form, structure and language.

Or,

12. 'The central theme of Rossetti's verse is love.' How far do you agree? Support your argument with close reference to language, form and structure in at least **three** of the set poems.