ENGLISH A: LITERATURE – HIGHER LEVEL – PAPER 2

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer one essay question only. You must base your answer on at least two of the Part 3 works you have studied. Answers which are not based on a discussion of at least two Part 3 works will not score high marks.
- You are not permitted to bring copies of the works you have studied into the examination room.

Answer one essay question only. You must base your answer on at least two of the Part 3 works you have studied and compare and contrast these works in response to the question. Answers which are not based on a discussion of at least two Part 3 works will not score high marks.

Drama

1. Explore the ways in which dramatists have made use of monologues and/or soliloquies in at least two plays you have studied.
2. Plays employ various kinds of structural divisions such as prologues and epilogues, act and scene divisions, even carefully placed intermissions. Discuss the dramatic uses made of these divisions in at least two plays you have studied.
3. “A play should make you laugh or should make you cry.” With reference to at least two plays you have studied, discuss the methods playwrights use to generate emotional response in their audiences.

Poetry

4. A poem on the page is often recognized immediately by its visual appearance. Using at least two poems you have studied, discuss the way the poets have arranged lines and stanzas in terms of length, spacing or position to create visual arrangements that mirror the thoughts and feelings of the poems.
5. Focusing on the works of at least two poets you have studied, discuss the effects created by metaphors in a poem.
6. Light and dark, country and city, proud and humble—these and numerous other contrasts have been used by poets to sharpen their expression of ideas or feelings. In the works of at least two poets you have studied, explore the ways contrasts have been used to achieve particular effects.

Prose: novel and short story

7. Writers of fiction do not always relate events in chronological order. In at least two works you have studied, explore the effects of telling the story in a non-chronological manner.
8. The memorable impact of novels and short stories arises from the careful and often brilliant creation of detail by their writers. Using at least two writers you have studied, explore the role and impact of some significant details in the narratives.
9. Some writers select a narrative voice that sharpens or clarifies their stories; others choose a narrative voice that mystifies or misleads. How and to what effect have at least two of the writers you have studied employed narrative voice?

Prose other than fiction

10. Choosing at least two works you have studied, discuss the way the writers have structured their works to make their material clear and interesting to their audiences.
11. Personal history as well as the backdrop of events surrounding that personal history are both significant to many works of prose other than fiction. In at least two works you have studied, discuss the use made of the interplay between personal history and the background within which that personal history occurred.
12. How have two or more writers in your study made particular places or settings an element of significance in their works?
Paper 2 Sample Examination: Marking Notes

Examiners: please note that the term “comparison”, both in the descriptors and in the marking notes, includes the discussion of relevant “contrasts” as well.

Drama

1. An adequate to good answer will select some significant monologues and/or soliloquies from at least two plays and compare the ways in which these speeches are used by the dramatists. A good to excellent answer may offer closer scrutiny of the selected monologues and/or soliloquies, examining closely various ways in which dramatists use such speeches to impact their dramas as a whole and offering a closer analysis of the uniqueness of each dramatist’s approach.

2. An adequate to good answer will identify appropriate conventions that separate aspects of at least two plays and will compare some of the ways in which these divisions affect the dramatic presentation of the plays. A good to excellent answer may offer more specific detail regarding the types of divisions that occur in the plays and distinguish more closely how the choices of each dramatist lead to the effectiveness of particular aspects of the drama.

3. An adequate to good answer will identify some methods by which at least two dramatists generate emotional responses and offer supportive detail for how such methods work, comparing the choice of methods employed by the dramatists and/or the outcomes achieved. A good to excellent answer may offer a more in-depth and detailed discussion of the methods employed by dramatists to generate emotion, clearly evaluating the uniqueness of generating emotion in the separate dramas, and offering, perhaps, a distinction between comedy and tragedy.

Poetry

4. An adequate to good answer will identify the visual and structural features of at least two poems (by two poets) and offer an analysis of the relationship of such features to the thoughts and feelings expressed in the poems, comparing the approaches of the poets in this regard. A good to excellent answer may provide greater insight into the visual arrangement and structural features of the poems, evaluating closely the varying effects of these features on the “mirroring” of thought and feeling, clearly discerning the subtleties of the approaches as seen in the separate poems.

5. An adequate to good answer will identify some significant metaphors in at least two poems (by two poets) and discuss the effects of these metaphors, offering points of comparison on the use of metaphor in these poems. A good to excellent answer may offer carefully selected examples of metaphor and a close analysis of their effects, showing a clear understanding of the uniqueness of the use of metaphor from poem to poem.

6. An adequate to good answer will identify some important contrasts in at least two poems (by two poets) and discuss the ways in which these contrasts have been used to sharpen ideas, feelings, or for some other effect, offering some comparison of the contrasts chosen and/or the effects achieved. A good to excellent answer may offer a more considered discussion of the kinds (e.g. image patterns, settings, characterization, etc.) of contrasts used, clearly comparing how these contrasts operate to achieve a particular effect.

Prose: novel and short story

7. An adequate to good answer will accurately identify the narrative line of at least two works of fiction (by two writers) and compare the effects of the writers shifting the chronology of events in some way. A good to excellent answer may discuss in greater detail the deviations from chronology and how they are achieved and offer a more in-depth discussion of the effects of such shifting, showing a clear awareness of how such authorial decisions add to the effectiveness of the individual work.

8. An adequate to good answer will choose some significant details from at least two works of fiction (by two writers) and compare the role and impact of these details in the individual works. A good to excellent answer may show a more sophisticated sense of the ways in which details are incorporated into literary works and offer a more in-depth comparison of the role and impact of detail in the individual works, perhaps assessing how such detail makes a work memorable.

9. An adequate to good answer will identify the narrative voice in at least two works of fiction (by two writers) and compare how these narrators are used by the individual writers and to what effect. A good to excellent answer may offer a more detailed analysis of the narrative voice and offer a more thoughtful understanding of how the choice of narrator affects the reader’s reception of the text, perhaps as to clarity or confusion, clearly distinguishing the impact of narrative voice from one text to the next.

Prose other than fiction

10. An adequate to good answer will identify some structural features of at least two works (by two writers) and compare the effectiveness with which these features help convey the content in a clear and interesting fashion. A good to excellent answer may offer some telling comparisons between the structuring of the works and the effects these structures have on clarity and interest.

11. An adequate to good answer will address, in at least two works (by two writers), personal history and the larger context of the work and discuss the degree to which these two are effectively combined, drawing some comparison from one work to the next. A good to excellent answer may offer a more in-depth discussion, comparing how the writers have moved between these two realms, perhaps, to achieve a larger artistic effect.

12. An adequate to good answer will identify particular places or settings in at least two works (by two writers) and compare the significance that these places have in the works. A good to excellent answer may offer a more specific discussion of place or setting and a more nuanced comparison of the various significances place and setting might hold within a work.