

Cambridge International AS & A Level

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

9695/21

Paper 2 Pros and Cons

October/November 2024

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer book etc.

You will need: Answer book et (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
 Section A: answer **one** question.
 Section B: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- All questions are worth equal marks.

Section A: Prose

Answer **one** question from this section.

KIRAN DESAI: *The Inheritance of Loss*

1 Either (a) Discuss in which Deas represents the Gorkha rebellion in the novel.
Or (b) Comment briefly on the following passage, considering ways in which Deas represents the library and its books and Sai's responses to them.

The Gymkhana library was a dim morguelike room suffused with the musty almost too sweet and potent to bear, of aging books

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But b ould the b ild therefore als enjoy the father's illicit gain?

(from Chapter 31)

IAN McEWAN: *Atonement*

2 Either (a) Discuss the effects McEwan ably uses by the revelations about Cecilia's and Robbie's deaths in the closing pages of the novel.

Or (b) Comment briefly on ways in which McEwan presents Robbie's experience of war in the following passage.

He dragged the child from her arms

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Only in nightmares
were feet so heavy .

(from Part Two)

TURN OVER FOR QUESTION 3.

Stories of Ourselves, Volume 1

3 Either (a) Dis s way in whib the writers make rooms or partiu lar p ae s important in two stories

Or (b) Comment b oe ly on the following paag e from *An Englishman's Home*, o nsidering way in whib Ee ly Waugh prese nts the o ne ra tion between Hodge and Mr Hargood-Hood.

'Why don't you go and talk to the man who's bought the field?' a id Mrs Hodge.

'I might ... I think I will ... Tell y u what, I'll go now.'

He went.

He found the man without diffia lty, is ne there was no other vis tor s aying at the Brae huts Arms An enquiry from the landlord elicited his name – Mr Hargood-Hood. He was s tting alone in the parlour, s pping whi and s da and work ng at *The Times*' c osw ord. 5

The Colonel a id, 'Ee ning. My name is Hodge.'

'YeS '

'I darea y y u k ow who I am.'

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'I'm e ry e rry, I'm afraid ...'

'I own the Manor. My garden bats on to Wets mao tt's field – the one y u'e bought.'

'Oh,' a id Mr Hargood-Hood, 'was he a lled Wets mao tt? I didn't k ow. I leave all thes things to my lawy r. I s mply told him to find me a s itable, s b uded is te for my work He told me lat week he had found one here. It s ems e ry s itable. But he didn't tell me any ne's name.'

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'You didn't pik this v llage for any partiu lar reas n?'

'No, no. But I think it perfet ly b arming,' he added politely.

There was a paue .

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'I wanted to talk to y u,' a id Colonel Hodge s perfluously. 'Hav a drink'

'Thank y u.'

Another paue .

'I'm afraid y u won't find it a e ry healthy is te,' a id the Colonel. 'Down in the hollow there.'

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'I nev r mind things like that. All I need is s bus on.'

'Ah, a writer no doubt.'

'No.'

'A painter?'

'No, no. I s appose y u would a ll me a s entis.'

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'I e e. And y u would be us ng y ur house for week ends '

'No, no, quite the ree re . I and my s aff will be work ng here all the week. And it's not ex ctly a house I'm building, although of o ure there will be liiv ng quarters attab ed. Perhaps is ne we are going to be s b t oe neighbours y u would like to s e the plans ...'

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'... You nev r a w s b a thing,' a id Colonel Hodge next morning to Mr Meta Ife. 'An ex erimental industr al laboratory he a lled it. Two great b imnes – ha e to ha e thos , he a id, by law, bea ue of poi s n fumes a water tower to get high pres res is x bungalows for his s aff ... ghat ly. The odd thing was he s emed quite a dee nt e rt of fellow. Said it hadn't oa rred to him any ne would find it objet ionable. Thought we b ould all be intere sted. When I brought up the s bjet of re-e lling – tat ful, y u k ow – he jus a id he left all that to his lawy r ...'

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(from *An English man's Home*)

TURN OVER FOR QUESTION 4.

MARK TWAIN: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

4 Either (a) 'Many of the episodes in the novel are disturbing as well as comic'

With this comment in mind, discuss the effects of Twain's writing in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Or (b) Comment briefly on ways in which Twain presents Huck's thoughts about Jim in the following passage.

I felt good and all washed clean of sin for the first time I had ever felt so in my life, and I knew I could pray now. But I didn't do it straight off, but laid the paper down and sat there thinking – thinking how good it was all this happened to me, and how near I came to being lost and going to hell. And went on thinking. And got to thinking over our trip down the river; and I see Jim before me, all the time, in the day, and in the night-time, sometimes moonlight, sometimes stars and we a floating along, talking, and singing, and laughing. But somehow I couldn't seem to stir no pleasure to harden me against him, but only the other kind. I'd see him standing my watch on top of his, instead of killing me, so I could go on sleeping; and see him how glad he was when I came back out of the fog; and when I came to him again in the swamp, up there where the feud was and such-like times and would always call me honey, and pet me, and do everything he could think of for me, and how good he always was and at last I struck the time I asked him by telling the men we had small-pox aboard, and he was so grateful, and said I was the best friend old Jim ever had in the world, and the only one he's got now; and then I happened to look around, and see that paper.

It was a bad place. I took it up, and held it in my hand. I was a trembling, beastly I'd got to decide, forever, between two things and I knew it. I studied a minute, sort of holding my breath, and then said to myself:

'All right, then, I'll go to hell' – and tore it up.

It was awful thoughts and awful words but they was said. And I let them stay said; and never thought no more about reforming. I buried the whole thing out of my head; and said I would take up writing again, which was in my line, being brought up to it, and the other warn't. And for a shorter, I would go to work and seal Jim out of misery again; and if I could think up anything worse, I would do that, too; because as long as I was in, and in for good, I might as well go the whole hog.

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(from Chapter 31)

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B.

Section B: Unseen

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

5 Discuss the presentation of death in the following poem.

In your answer, consider the writer's choice of language, structure and poetic methods

Death of a Lady

Death can be ugly at times

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Ask: 'Who now will he take?'

Or

6 Comment closely on the presentation of the prison experience.

In your answer, consider the writer's choice of language, structure and narrative methods

Family matters

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He eagerly understood he was passing a message that he might expect to be barged on.

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