



Cambridge International AS & A Level

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

9695/23

Paper 2 Pros and Uns en

October/November 2024

2 hours



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
 Section A: answer **one** question.
 Section B: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front or back 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.

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: Prose

Answer **one** question from this section.

KIRAN DESAI: *The Inheritance of Loss*

1 Either (a) Discuss Debiai's presentation of Biju's experience of restaurant jobs in America.
Or (b) Comment briefly on Debiai's presentation of Saeed Saeed in the following passage.

'Biju!'

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Any ~~subversion~~ against the US government – they would be happy to help.

(from Chapter 19)

IAN McEWAN: *Atonement*

2 Either (a) Discuss the ways in which ME wants to tell the story in the novel.
Or (b) Comment briefly on the following passage, considering ways in which ME wants to present Briony's perspective.

If he had not been, as he described it, a trustee to the Ministry, and to Entitlement Planning, if he had been at home, sending Hardman down for the wines steering the operation, declining without appearing to when it was time to 'go through', he would not be walking the hallway now with such heaviness in her step.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Briony stopped and said her sister's name.

(from Chapter 10)

Stories of Ourselves, Volume 1

3 Either (a) Discuss in which the writers make buildings important in two stories
 Or (b) Comment briefly on the following passage from *Report on the Threatened City*, considering ways in which Doris Lessing presents the narrator and their perception of earth.

PRIORITY FLASH ONE

All coordinates all plans all prints cancelled. As of now condition unforeseen by us obtaining this city. Clear all programmes all planners all forecasters for new setting on this information.

PRIORITY

5

Base to note well that transmission this channel will probably be interrupted by material originating locally. Our fuel is low and this channel therefore only one now operative.

Summary of Background to Mission

Since our planet disappeared that this city was due for destruction or severe damage, all calculations and plans of our department have been based on one need: to find out how to rebuild the city to warn its inhabitants of what is to come. Observing their behaviour, both through Astronomers and from our unmanned machines launched at intervals. This past year, their time, our Commissioners for External Affairs decided these people should have no idea at all of what threatened, that their technology, while so advanced in some ways had a vast gap in it, a gap that could be defined, in fact, precisely by that area of ignorance – not knowing what was to befall them. This gap seemed impossible. Much time was spent by our technicians trying to determine what form of brain these creatures could have that made this contradiction possible – as already stated, a technology advanced in one area and blank in another. Our technicians had to solve the problem, since their theories became increasingly improbable and since no species known to us anywhere corresponds even at a long remove with what we believed this one to be. It became, perhaps, the most intriguing of our unsolved problems challenging and defeating one department after another.

10

15

20

25

Summary of Objective this Mission

Meanwhile, putting all calculations on one side, although they were, all our resources have been used, at top speed and pressure, to develop a space craft that could, in fact, land a team on this planet, since it was our intention, having given the warning, offered the information available to us but (we thought) not to them, which made the warning necessary, to offer them more; our assistance. We meant to help bear the area, transport the population elsewhere, a billion the block to the area and then, having done what, after all, we have done for other planets our partial mental structure being suited to this kind of forecasting and assistance, return to base, taking some suitable specimens of them with us in order to train them in a way that would overcome the gap in their minds and, therefore, their sense. The first part we achieved: that is we managed, in the time set for it, to develop a space craft that could make the journey here, carrying the required number of personnel. It rained our own technology and postponed certain delayed plans of our own. But our craft landed here, on the western shore of the land mass as planned, and without any trouble, seven days ago.

30

35

40

The Nature of the Problem

You will have wondered why there have been no transpositions before this. There have been two reasons. One: we realised at one time that there would be heavier demands on our fuel than we had anticipated and that we would have to open route 45. Two: we were waiting to understand what it was we had to tell you. We did not understand the problem. For it was almost at one time clear to us that all our thinking about 'the gap in their mental structure' was off the point. We have never understood the nature of the problem. So improbable is it that we delayed communicating until we were aware. The trouble with this species is not that it is unable to foresee its immediate future; it is that it does not seem to care. Yet that is altogether too simple a statement of its condition. If it were simple – that it knew that within five years its city was to be destroyed, or partly destroyed, and that it was indifferent – we could have to say. This species lacks the first quality necessary to any animal species: it lacks the will to live. Finding out what the main animal has caused the delay. Which I now propose partially to remedy by going into an account of what befell us step by step. This will entail a detailed description of a species and a condition absolutely without precedent in our experience of the inhabited planets

50

55

55

(from Report on the Threatened City)

MARK TWAIN: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

4 Either (a) Discuss Twain's presentation of the Grangerford and the Shepherdson families
 Or (b) Comment briefly on the following passage, considering Twain's presentation of Huckleberry's attitude to the duke and the king.

I a^s to my^s If, this is another one that I'm letting him rob her of her money. And when he got through, they all jes laid theirs^{le}s out to make me feel at home and how I was amon^{ts} friends I felt s^o ornery and low down and mean, that I a^s to my^s If, My mind's made up; I'll hide that money for them or bust.

So then I lit out – for bed, I a^s id, meaning s^o me time or another. When I got by my^s If, I went to thinking the thing over. I a^s to my^s If, b^u all I go to that dot or, private, and blow on these frauds^s No – that won't do. He might tell who told him; then the king and the duke would make it warm for me. Shall I go, private, and tell Mary aⁿ ne? No – I dasn't do it. Her fae would give them a hint, s^o re; they^e got the money, and they'd be right out and get away with it. If he was to fetch in help, I'd get mixed up in the busⁿes^s before it was done with, I judge. No, there ain't no good way but one. I got to steal that money, s^o mehow; and I got to steal it s^o me way that they won't s^o p^{ic} on that I done it. They^e got a good thing, here; and they ain't agoing to leave till they^e play^d this family and this town for all they're worth, s^o I'll find a bane time enough. I'll steal it, and hide it; and by and-by, when I'm away down the river, I'll write a letter and tell Mary aⁿ ne where it's hid. But I better hide it to-night, if I aⁿ be^s the dot or maybe he hasn't let up as mub^s as he lets on he has^s he might a^s re them out of here, y^e t.

So, think^s I, I'll go and s^o arb^s them rooms Up stairs the hall was dark but I found the duke's room, and started to paw around it with my hands^s but I reall^e let^d it wouldn't be mub like the king to let any^s ody else take a^s re of that money but his own s^o If; s^o then I went to his room and began to paw around there. But I s^o e I o^{uldn}t do nothing without a aⁿ dle, and I dasn't light one, of o^{ur}e. So I judged I'd got to do the other thing – lay for them, and eat^d rop. About that time, I hears their foot^s steps o^{ming}, and was going to k^p under the bed; I reab^d ed for it, but it was[']t where I thought it would be; but I toub^d ed the a^{rtain} that hid Mary aⁿ ne's fro^s s^o I jumped in behind that and s^o uggled in amon^{ts} the gowns^s and s^o od there perfet^s ly s^o ill.

They o^{me} in and h^u t the door; and the firs^t thing the duke done was to get down and look under the bed. Then I was glad I hadn't found the bed when I wanted it. And y^e t, y^e u^s how, it's kind of natural to hide under the bed when y^e u are up to any hing private. They^e ts down, then, and the king a^s y^e

'Well, what is it? and a^t it middlin' b^o rt, bea^s us^s it's better for us to be down there a whoopin'-up the mournin', than up here givⁿ 'em a bane to talk us over.'

'Well, this is it, Capet. I ain't eas^s I ain't o^mfortable. That dot or lay^s on my mind. I wanted to know y^e ur plans I've got a notion, and I think it's a s^o und one.'

'What is it, duke?'

'That we better glide out of this before three in the morning, and b^o ip it down the river with what we've^e got. Specally, s^o eing we got it s^o eas^s – given back to us^s flung at our heads^s as y^e u may say, when o^{ur}e we allowed to have to steal it back I'm for h^u ok^s ng off and lighting out.'

That made me feel pretty bad.

(from Chapter 26)

10

Section B: Unseen

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

5 Discuss the presentation of Kamla's and Rajinder's differing views in the following passage.

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

[KAMLA is speaking on the telephone to KATIE in the refugee office.]

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Kamla: It's not pleaa nt, or eas~~y~~, I kn ow, but that is the proe dure, for
eve ry ne, regardles~~s~~ of rae and religion.

Or

6 Comment closely on the presentation of bawnging ideas of poetry in the following poem.

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

Phoenix and Unicorn

Where shall we find new metaphor?

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

And now falls slowly, swooping like a bird.

BLANK PAGE

Permit to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examinations series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.