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Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2011

English Literature

Assessment Unit A2 2
assessing
The Study of Prose – Theme Based

[AL221]

AL221

MONDAY 23 MAY, MORNING

TIME

2 hours.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Answer **two** questions. Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
This is a closed book examination. Extracts referred to in Section A can be found in the
Resource Booklet provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 120.
All questions carry equal marks, i.e. 60 marks for each question.
Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.
A Resource Booklet is provided for use with Section A only.

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THE STUDY OF PROSE – THEME BASED

Section A: Close analysis of an extract from a post-1990 novel

Answer **one** question on an extract from your chosen novel on a given theme.

In Section A you will be marked on your ability to

- articulate a creative, informed and relevant response to a given extract using appropriate terminology and concepts (AO1)

- show detailed critical understanding in analysing the ways in which the writer uses narrative points of view, creates characters and situations, and uses language (including imagery) and tone to shape meanings (AO2)

Section A

Answer **one** question in this section

1   War: *The Things They Carried*

By close analysis of extract **1**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet, taking account of **narrative methods** – narrative point of view, language (including imagery) and tones – used to create situation and characters, show how effective you think O'Brien is in writing about and illustrating "a true war story".

2   Women in Society: *The Illusionist*

By close analysis of extract **2**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet, taking account of **narrative methods** – narrative point of view, language (including imagery) and tones – used to create situation and characters, show how effective you think Johnston is in writing about the relationship between a woman and her husband.

3   The Outsider: *The Butcher Boy*

By close analysis of extract **3**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet, taking account of **narrative methods** – narrative point of view, language (including imagery) and tones – used to create situation and characters, show how effective you think McCabe is in writing about the family life of an alienated child.

4   Childhood: *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*

By close analysis of extract **4**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet, taking account of **narrative methods** – narrative point of view, language (including imagery) and tones – used to create situation and characters, show how effective you think Doyle is in writing about Paddy's childhood anxieties.

Section B: Comparison of two novels on the same theme as that chosen on A

Answer **one** question on your chosen pair of novels on a given theme.

In Section B you will be marked on your ability to

● articulate informed and relevant responses that communicate effectively your knowledge and understanding of two novels on a given theme (AO1)

● show detailed critical understanding in analysing the ways in which the writers use structure, form and language (AO2)

● demonstrate understanding of the context in which texts are written and received by drawing on appropriate information from outside the novels (AO4)

● respond to a stimulus statement which expresses a particular reading of the two novels (AO3)

● sustain a comparison/contrast of the two novels (AO3)

Section B

Answer **one** question in this section

1   War

War always brings out the worst in human nature.

By **comparing and contrasting** appropriately selected parts of the two novels you have studied for this question, show how far you would agree with the view expressed above. Your argument should include relevant comments on each writer's **methods** and **relevant external contextual information** on ideas about war and their representation in books and/or films.

2   Women in Society

Any strength and success associated with the women in these novels is always too good to be true to the spirit of the Realist Novel.

By **comparing and contrasting** appropriately selected parts of the two novels you have studied for this question, show how far you would agree with the view expressed above. Your argument should include relevant comments on each writer's **methods** and **relevant external contextual information** on the nature of the Realist Novel.

3   The Outsider

The experience of an outsider, as presented in these novels, has no relevance to the twenty-first-century reader.

By **comparing and contrasting** appropriately selected parts of the two novels you have studied for this question, show how far you would agree with the view expressed above. Your argument should include relevant comments on each writer's **methods** and **relevant external contextual information** on the twenty-first-century reader.
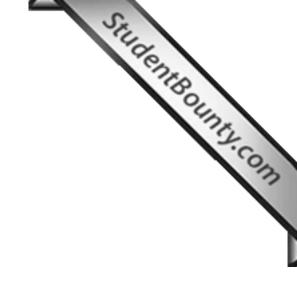
4   Childhood

Regardless of when or where the novels of childhood happen to be set, the experiences of children which they convey are essentially no different from those of children in our own society today.

By **comparing and contrasting** appropriately selected parts of the two novels you have studied for this question, show how far you would agree with the view expressed above. Your argument should include relevant comments on each writer's **methods** and **relevant external contextual information** on the nature of children's experiences in our society today.
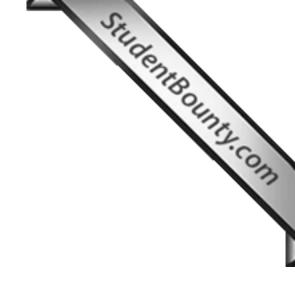
THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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