



LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Paper 2 Drama, Poetry and Prose

October/November 2025

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total, each from a different section.
- 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.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has 20 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: Drama**ERROL JOHN: *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl***

- 1 **Either** **(a)** Discuss some of the ways in which John shapes an audience's response to Sophia in *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*. [25]
- Or** **(b)** Discuss John's presentation of Esther in the following extract from the play. In your answer, you should pay close attention to dramatic methods and their effects. [25]

[ESTHER *reappears with the baby bundled in his bedclothes.*

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

So many things we find we have to get.

(from Act 1, Scene 1)

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: *Measure for Measure*

- 2 Either** (a) Compare the roles and characterisation of Lucio and Claudio in *Measure for Measure*. [25]
- Or** (b) Discuss in detail Shakespeare's dramatic presentation of the argument between Angelo and Isabella in the following extract. [25]

ANGELO:	Nay, women are frail too.	
ISABELLA:	Ay, as the glasses where they view themselves, Which are as easy broke as they make forms. Women, help heaven! Men their creation mar In profiting by them. Nay, call us ten times frail; For we are soft as our complexions are, And credulous to false prints.	5
ANGELO:	I think it well; And from this testimony of your own sex, Since I suppose we are made to be no stronger Than faults may shake our frames, let me be bold. I do arrest your words. Be that you are, That is, a woman; if you be more, you're none; If you be one, as you are well express'd By all external warrants, show it now By putting on the destin'd livery.	10 15
ISABELLA:	I have no tongue but one; gentle, my lord, Let me intreat you speak the former language.	
ANGELO:	Plainly conceive, I love you.	
ISABELLA:	My brother did love Juliet, And you tell me that he shall die for't.	20
ANGELO:	He shall not, Isabel, if you give me love.	
ISABELLA:	I know your virtue hath a license in't, Which seems a little fouler than it is, To pluck on others.	25
ANGELO:	Believe me, on mine honour, My words express my purpose.	
ISABELLA:	Ha! little honour to be much believ'd, And most pernicious purpose! Seeming, seeming! I will proclaim thee, Angelo, look for't. Sign me a present pardon for my brother Or, with an outstretch'd throat, I'll tell the world aloud What man thou art.	30
ANGELO:	Who will believe thee, Isabel? My unsoil'd name, th' austereness of my life, My vouch against you, and my place i' th' state, Will so your accusation outweigh That you shall stifle in your own report, And smell of calumny. I have begun, And now I give my sensual race the rein: Fit thy consent to my sharp appetite; Lay by all nicety and prolixious blushes That banish what they sue for; redeem thy brother By yielding up thy body to my will;	35 40

Or else he must not only die the death, 45
 But thy unkindness shall his death draw out
 To ling'ring sufferance. Answer me to-morrow,
 Or, by the affection that now guides me most,
 I'll prove a tyrant to him. As for you,
 Say what you can: my false o'erweighs your true. 50

[Exit.]

ISABELLA: To whom should I complain? Did I tell this,
 Who would believe me? O perilous mouths
 That bear in them one and the self-same tongue 55
 Either of condemnation or approof,
 Bidding the law make curtsy to their will;
 Hooking both right and wrong to th' appetite,
 To follow as it draws! I'll to my brother.
 Though he hath fall'n by prompture of the blood,
 Yet hath he in him such a mind of honour 60
 That, had he twenty heads to tender down
 On twenty bloody blocks, he'd yield them up
 Before his sister should her body stoop
 To such abhorr'd pollution.
 Then, Isabel, live chaste, and, brother, die: 65
 More than our brother is our chastity.
 I'll tell him yet of Angelo's request,
 And fit his mind to death, for his soul's rest.

[Exit.]

(from Act 2, Scene 4)

JOHN WEBSTER: *The Duchess of Malfi*

- 3 **Either** (a) Discuss the presentation and dramatic significance of corruption in the play *The Duchess of Malfi*. [25]
- Or** (b) Paying close attention to dramatic methods, discuss ways in which Webster creates tension in the following extract from the play. [25]

BOSOLA:	Will you reject that noble and free league Of amity and love which I present you?	
DUCHESS:	Their league is like that of some politic kings: Only to make themselves of strength and pow'r To be our after-ruin. Tell them so.	5
BOSOLA:	And what from you?	
ANTONIO:	Thus tell him: I will not come.	
BOSOLA:	And what of this?	
ANTONIO:	My brothers have dispersed Bloodhounds abroad; which till I hear are muzzled, No truce, though hatched with ne'er such politic skill, Is safe, that hangs upon our enemies' will. I'll not come at them.	10
BOSOLA:	This proclaims your breeding. Every small thing draws a base mind to fear, As the adamant draws iron. Fare you well, sir, You shall shortly hear from's.	15
	[Exit BOSOLA.]	
DUCHESS:	I suspect some ambush: Therefore, by all my love, I do conjure you To take your eldest son, and fly towards Milan. Let us not venture all this poor remainder In one unlucky bottom.	20
ANTONIO:	You counsel safely. Best of my life, farewell. Since we must part Heaven hath a hand in't; but no otherwise Than as some curious artist takes in sunder A clock or watch when it is out of frame, To bring 't in better order.	25
DUCHESS:	I know not which is best, To see you dead, or part with you. [To her son] Farewell, boy, Thou art happy, that thou hast not understanding To know thy misery, for all our wit And reading brings us to a truer sense Of sorrow. [To ANTONIO] In the eternal church, sir, I do hope we shall not part thus.	30
ANTONIO:	O, be of comfort! Make patience a noble fortitude, And think not how unkindly we are used: Man, like to cassia, is proved best, being bruised.	35
DUCHESS:	Must I, like to a slave-born Russian, Account it praise to suffer tyranny? And yet, O Heaven, thy heavy hand is in't.	40

- I have seen my little boy oft scourge his top
And compared myself to't: nought made me e'er
Go right but heaven's scourge-stick. 45
- ANTONIO: Do not weep:
Heaven fashioned us of nothing, and we strive
To bring ourselves to nothing. Farewell, Cariola,
And thy sweet armful. [*To the DUCHESS*] If I do never see 50
thee more,
Be a good mother to your little ones,
And save them from the tiger: fare you well.
- DUCHESS: Let me look upon you once more, for that speech
Came from a dying father. Your kiss is colder 55
Than that I have seen an holy anchorite
Give to a dead man's skull.
- ANTONIO: My heart is turned to a heavy lump of lead,
With which I sound my danger: fare you well.
[*Exit ANTONIO with his elder Son.*] 60
- DUCHESS: My laurel is all withered.
- CARIOLA: Look, madam, what a troop of armèd men
Make toward us.
[*Enter BOSOLA with a guard of soldiers, (all wearing) vizards.*]
- DUCHESS: O, they are very welcome. 65
When Fortune's wheel is overcharged with princes,
The weight makes it move swift. I would have my ruin
Be sudden. I am your adventure, am I not?
- BOSOLA: You are: you must see your husband no more.

(from Act 3, Scene 5)

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

- 4 Either (a)** Gooper says: 'A family crisis brings out the best and the worst in every member of it.'

Discuss Williams's presentation of family tensions in the light of this comment. [25]

- Or (b)** Comment closely on Williams's dramatic presentation of the relationship between Big Daddy and Brick in the following extract. [25]

BIG DADDY: Why are you so anxious to shut me up?

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

I slept with Big Mama till, let's see, five years ago, till I was sixty and she was fifty-eight, and never even liked her, never did!

(from Act 2)

Section B: Poetry

MAYA ANGELOU: *And Still I Rise*

- 5 **Either** (a) In what ways and with what effects does Angelou present women's attitudes to men? In your answer, you should refer to **two** poems from the selection. [25]
- Or** (b) Analyse some of the ways in which Angelou creates tension in the following poem. [25]

My Arkansas

There is a deep brooding

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

It writhes in awful
waves of brooding.

SIMON ARMITAGE: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

- 6** **Either** (a) In what ways and with what effects does Armitage explore loyalty in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*? [25]
- Or** (b) Analyse ways in which Armitage presents the hunting of the boar in the following extract. [25]

Soon they picked up a scent at the side of a swamp

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

till the setting sun slipped from the western sky.

WILLIAM BLAKE: Selected Poems from *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*

- 7** **Either** **(a)** Compare some of the ways in which Blake uses symbols in **two** poems from the selection. [25]
- Or** **(b)** Comment closely on the following poem, analysing Blake's exploration of the effects of sorrow. [25]

On Anothers Sorrow

Can I see anothers woe,
And not be in sorrow too.
Can I see anothers grief,
And not seek for kind relief.

Can I see a falling tear,
And not feel my sorrows share,
Can a father see his child,
Weep, nor be with sorrow fill'd.

5

Can a mother sit and hear,
An infant groan an infant fear –
No no never can it be.
Never never can it be.

10

And can he who smiles on all
Hear the wren with sorrows small,
Hear the small birds grief & care
Hear the woes that infants bear –

15

And not sit beside the nest
Pouring pity in their breast,
And not sit the cradle near
Weeping tear on infants tear.

20

And not sit both night & day,
Wiping all our tears away.
O! no never can it be.
Never never can it be.

He doth give his joy to all.
He becomes an infant small.
He becomes a man of woe
He doth feel the sorrow too.

25

Think not, thou canst sigh a sigh,
And thy maker is not by.
Think not, thou canst weep a tear,
And thy maker is not near.

30

O! he gives to us his joy,
That our grief he may destroy
Till our grief is fled & gone
He doth sit by us and moan

35

Songs of Ourselves, Volume 2

- 8 **Either** (a) Discuss some of the ways in which **two** poems explore how people respond to the natural world. [25]
- Or** (b) Comment closely on the following poem, analysing ways in which Gwen Harwood presents the woman. [25]

In the Park

She sits in the park. Her clothes are out of date.
Two children whine and bicker, tug her skirt.
A third draws aimless patterns in the dirt.
Someone she loved once passes by – too late

to feign indifference to that casual nod. 5
'How nice,' et cetera. 'Time holds great surprises.'
From his neat head unquestionably rises
a small balloon ... 'but for the grace of God ...'

They stand a while in flickering light, rehearsing 10
the children's names and birthdays. 'It's so sweet
to hear their chatter, watch them grow and thrive,'
she says to his departing smile. Then, nursing
the youngest child, sits staring at her feet.
To the wind she says, 'They have eaten me alive.'

(Gwen Harwood)

Section C: Prose**KIRAN DESAI: *The Inheritance of Loss***

- 9 Either (a)** 'You are like slaves ... running after the West'.

In the light of Gyan's comment to Sai, discuss the presentation and significance of English culture in the novel. [25]

- Or (b)** Comment closely on Desai's presentation of the attack on Cho Oyu in the following passage. [25]

Nobody noticed the boys creeping across the grass, not even Mutt, until they were practically up the steps.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

They weren't even
locked away: they were mounted at the end of the hall above a dusty row
of painted green and brown duck decoys.

(from Chapter 1)

Stories of Ourselves, Volume 1

- 10 Either (a) Discuss ways in which characters are shown as developing or changing in **two** stories. [25]
- Or (b) Comment closely on the following passage from *My Greatest Ambition*, considering ways in which Morris Lurie presents the narrator's preparations for his interview. [25]

My school suit was out of the question because I wore it every day and I was sick of it and it just wasn't right for a business appointment. Anyway, it had ink stains round the pocket where my fountain pen leaked (a real fountain, ha ha), and the seat of the trousers shone like a piece of tin. And my Good Suit was a year old and too short in the leg. I tried it on in front of the mirror, just to make sure, and I was right. It was ludicrous. My father offered to lend me one of his suits. He hadn't bought a new suit since 1934. There was enough material in the lapels alone to make three suits and have enough left over for a couple of caps. Not only that, but my father was shorter than me and twice the weight. So I thanked him and said that I had decided to wear my Good Suit after all. I would wear dark socks and the shortness of trousers would hardly be noticed. Also, I would wear my eye-dazzling pure silk corn yellow tie, which, with the proper Windsor knot, would so ruthlessly rivet attention that no one would even look to see if I was wearing shoes. 5

'A prince,' my father said. 10

Now, as the day of my appointment drew nearer and nearer, a great question had to be answered, a momentous decision made. For my father had been right. If all they wanted to do was to buy my comic, they would have sent a cheque. So there was something else. A full-time career as a comic-strip artist on the permanent staff of *Boy Magazine*! It had to be that. But that would mean giving up school and was I prepared to do that? 15

'Yes,' I said with great calmness and great authority to my face in the bathroom mirror. 'Yes.' 20

There were three days to go. 25

Then there occurred one of those things that must happen every day in the world of big business, but when you're thirteen it knocks you for a loop. *Boy Magazine* sent me a telegram. It was the first telegram I had ever received in my life, and about the third that had ever come to our house. My mother opened it straight away. She told everyone in our street about it. She phoned uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers, and finally, when I came home from school, she told me. 30

I was furious. I shouted, 'I told you never under *any* circumstances to open my mail!' 35

'But a telegram,' my mother said.

'A telegram is mail,' I said. 'And mail is a personal, private thing. Where is it?' 40

My mother had folded it four times and put it in her purse and her purse in her bag and her bag in her wardrobe which she had locked. She stood by my side and watched me while I read it.

'Nu?' she said.

'It's nothing,' I said.

And it wasn't. Miss Gordon had suddenly discovered that the editor was going to be out of town on my appointment day, and would I kindly phone and make another appointment? 45

I did, standing on tiptoe and shouting as before.

(from *My Greatest Ambition*)

EVELYN WAUGH: *A Handful of Dust*

- 11 Either** (a) Discuss some of the ways in which Waugh compares life in the English countryside with life in London. [25]
- Or** (b) Comment closely on the following passage, considering ways in which Waugh presents the reading of the Dickens novel. [25]

They took down the first volume of *Bleak House* and that afternoon Tony had his first reading.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

But Mr Todd seemed obtuse and paid no attention to these hints.

(from *Du Côté de Chez Todd*)

COLSON WHITEHEAD: *The Underground Railroad*

- 12 Either (a)** Caesar tells Cora, 'I knew you could do it'.

With this comment in mind, discuss ways in which Whitehead presents Cora's determination. [25]

- Or (b)** Comment closely on the following passage, considering Whitehead's presentation of Ridgeway and his actions. [25]

That was four days ago.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

right,' he said. 'He's

(from Tennessee)

BLANK PAGE

Permission 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 examination 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.