



MARKING NOTES

November 2013

LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE

Standard Level

Paper 1

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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assessment Criterion A

Maximum [5 marks]

The task is essentially focused on an analysis of a chosen passage from a prose text. Through this analysis the level of understanding will be evaluated by the examiner. This “understanding” of the text should include the relevance of the passage and its place in the context of the novel as a whole. A synopsis of the plot of the text may be a first step towards demonstrating understanding but “good” and “perceptive” understanding will evaluate style and theme as well as plot detail. The analysis and understanding of these elements of the text will be always conducted with a view to the performance of the chosen passage. The importance of support and validation of all ideas through reference to the text is crucial. The text is fundamental and reference to it mandatory.

Assessment Criterion B

Maximum [10 marks]

The “ideas” for performance are generated from the text and should not be independent of it. The textual “justification” required to support the “ideas for performance” in Criterion B will be drawn from a thorough contextualization of the passage and a secure understanding of its relevance to whatever issues the questions raise.

The association of “good” and “excellent” with the word “practical” attests to the value of ideas that can be realized in a practical staging context. These are ideas for the stage or a staging area and temptations to propose grandiose scenarios more applicable to “blockbuster” cinema than theatre should be resisted.

The candidate may draw diagrams or make sketches if it is thought that these are necessary to communicate the “ideas for performance” but such visual additions are not mandatory.

Assessment Criterion C

Maximum [5 marks]

This criterion evaluates the clarity and coherence of the language used in the essay and looks at the appropriateness of the register, style and terminology which the candidate employs.

Clearly in an exercise which demands a facility in two disciplines, namely literature and performance, the candidate will be expected to demonstrate a facility in the use of the terminology specific to each discipline. As a writer of prose the candidate will be assessed on clarity, variety, precision and concision. The clarity of a written communication depends on accuracy in grammar, spelling and sentence construction. The effectiveness of a written communication will depend on the use of vocabulary, a sense for precision or accuracy of expression and concision which argues for an economy of expression. The persuasiveness of a piece of writing will depend on choice of idiom and style.

These notes to examiners are intended only as guidelines to assist marking and as a supplement to the published external assessment criteria for written paper 1. They are not offered as an exhaustive and fixed set of responses or approaches to which all answers must rigidly adhere. Good ideas or angles not offered here should be acknowledged and rewarded as appropriate. Similarly, answers which do not include all the ideas or approaches suggested here may still be very good answers.

Of course, some of the points listed below will appear in weaker papers, but are unlikely to be developed.

The following elements are particularly relevant to Criteria A, B and C:

Question 1

Criteria A

An average candidate will choose a passage from the novel which is connected to the question. The student is likely to justify this choice with a general attempt to put the passage into context with the rest of the novel. The candidate will be capable of selecting some relevant quotation from the text that will go some way to justifying the choice though justifications and rationale for choice are likely to be expressed in general rather than specific terms.

The good candidate will choose a passage that is clearly relevant to the question and will justify this choice by placing the selected passage into an active relationship to the rest of the novel. There will be a concern to show the relevance of the context to the question. This will be validated by relevant and detailed quotation from the passage which will establish a coherent link between the text and the question.

The excellent candidate will choose a passage that represents a perceptive approach to the question. This will be carefully justified by relating the passage to the context of the novel and the direction of the question. There will be detailed and well selected quotation which justifies the relevance of the selected passage both to the novel and to the question. The quotations will resonate and establish a powerful link between the text and the question.

Criteria B

The average candidate will link ideas contained in the selected passage to ideas for staging it. In this question the importance of the character and perhaps the setting as well will be prominent features under consideration. What is said and done in the passage by the selected character will involve the candidate in staging decisions. These are likely to be credible but understood in general terms. Staging choices, while interesting, may lack practicality or be a little vague. Production effects will be part of what the candidate explores with possible reference to sound, set design and lighting, not only as a way of registering setting but also perhaps as reflections of the character's mood.

The good candidate will see how ideas in the selected passage link to dramatic ideas for staging. Ideas for staging will be practical and appropriate cognizance will be taken of the possible ways of employing production elements in order to establish mood and setting for the character on stage. The choice of the character will be informed and interesting and will take the importance of the character to the wider context of the novel into account. There will be clear justification for the staging choices the candidate adopts in clear references to the detail of the selected passage. The exploration of the character and setting is likely to be more specific than general with thoughtful choice of textual reference and quotation. The exploration will result in a focused staging. There will be a sense of character development in the staging and there will be an understanding of the importance of the audience in relation to staging decisions and a consequent appreciation of the link between actor and audience.

The excellent candidate will immediately link ideas in the selected passage to dramatic ideas for staging. The relationship between these ideas will be interesting and relevant to significant aspects of the novel. Ideas for staging will be original and clearly justified; there will be a precise focus on how production elements may be carefully employed to convey the drama of the scene to an audience through the release of the dramatic potential of the original passage. The choice of the character will be insightful and the accompanying setting will complement the action in an evocative way. The exploration of character and setting will be highly specific with a comprehensive understanding of the exercise of transformation clearly registered by the candidate through apposite reference and quotation. There will be a strong sense for the dramatic meaning the staging will be communicating to an audience and the direction of actor and design of setting will clearly register this for the audience.

Criteria C

The average candidate will write clearly but there may be lapses in grammar and spelling. These will not compromise the overall coherence of the essay. The examiner will not have to struggle to confer meaning. The argument of the essay will be reasonably structured but may not be entirely consistent. The candidate will usually write in quite general terms, occasionally managing to be more specific. There will be adequate reference to the text. The register will be satisfactory with some understanding of the two sets of terminology respectively applied while writing about literature and performance.

The good candidate will write in a way that is clear and engaged. Lapses in grammar and spelling will be few. Sentences will be varied in length. There will be some indication of an individual style of expression. The argument of the essay will be structured in a way that satisfactorily conveys meaning, sometimes of specified and detailed points. The candidate will write with recognition of the importance of detail and there will be clear referencing to the text. The register will be appropriate with a demonstrable understanding of the two sets of terminology respectively applied while writing about literature and performance.

The excellent candidate will write in a way that is clear, varied and precise in the use of critical vocabulary pertinent to literature and performance. The argument of the essay will be persuasive with perceptive use of referencing and quotation from the novel. The structure of the essay will enhance its persuasive qualities. The register will be effective with a use of sentence structure and language reflecting an individual style of expression that conveys a purposeful argument in a concise manner. The transformation will be explored in specific detail.

Question 2

Criteria A

An average candidate will choose a passage from the novel which is connected to the question. The dominant theme will be identified. This choice of theme may not be entirely apposite. The student is likely to justify this choice with a general attempt to put the passage and theme into context with the rest of the novel. The candidate will be capable of selecting some relevant quotations from the text that will go some way to justifying the choice though justifications and rationale for choice are likely to be expressed in general rather specific terms.

The good candidate will choose a passage that is clearly relevant to the question; the dominant theme will be clearly identified. The selection will be apposite. This choice of the passage will be justified by placing the selected passage into an active relationship to the rest of the novel. There will be concern to show the relevance of the context to the question. This will be validated by relevant and detailed quotation from the passage which will establish a coherent link between the text and the question.

The excellent candidate will choose a passage that represents a perceptive approach to the question. The dominant theme will be clearly identified and be entirely appropriate. This will be carefully justified by relating the passage to the context of the novel and the direction of the question. There will be detailed and well selected quotation which justifies the relevance of the selected passage both to the novel and to the question. The quotations will resonate and establish a powerful link between the text and the question.

Criteria B

The average candidate will link ideas contained in the selected passage to ideas for staging it. In this question the importance of the dominant theme and how the passage chosen may best illustrate its dramatic potential will be a key factor. The average candidate may struggle a little to explore the dramatic potential of the theme selected but will be able to identify dramatic aspects of it. These are likely to be credible but understood in general terms. Staging choices, while interesting, may lack practicality or be a little vague. Production effects will be part of what the candidate explores with possible reference to sound, set design and lighting, not only as a way of registering setting but also perhaps as reflections of a thematic preoccupation from the point of view of the author. This exploration is likely to be approximate and may lack clear focus and precision. In this sense the relationship between the dramatization of a dominant theme and its intended effect on the audience may not be entirely clear.

The good candidate will see how ideas in the selected passage link to dramatic ideas for staging. Ideas for staging will be practical and appropriate cognizance will be taken of the possible ways of employing production elements to fully convey the importance of the dominant theme. The choice of the theme should underline its dramatic significance and its overall importance in the wider context of the novel. There will be justification for the staging choices the candidate adopts in clear references to the detail of the selected passage. The exploration of the dominant theme will be more specific than general with thoughtful choice of textual reference and quotation. The exploration

will result in a focused staging. There will be a sense for thematic development in the staging and there will be an understanding of the importance of the audience in relation to staging decisions and a consequent appreciation of the link between the theme and the action on stage.

The excellent candidate will immediately link ideas in the selected passage to significant themes in the novel. Ideas for staging will be original and clearly justified; there will be a precise focus on how production elements may be carefully employed to convey the drama of the scene to an audience through the release of the dramatic potential of the original passage. The choice of the dominant theme will be assured and thought provoking; the exploration of the dominant theme will be highly specific with a comprehensive understanding of the exercise of transformation clearly registered by the candidate through apposite reference and quotation. There will be a strong sense of the dramatic meaning the staging will be communicating to an audience and the staging of the scene will clearly register this for the audience.

Criteria C

The average candidate will write clearly but there may be lapses in grammar and spelling. These will not compromise the overall coherence of the essay. The examiner will not have to struggle to confer meaning. The argument of the essay will be reasonably structured but may not be entirely consistent. The candidate will usually write in quite general terms, occasionally managing to be more specific. There will be adequate reference to the text. The register will be satisfactory with some understanding of the two sets of terminology respectively applied while writing about literature and performance.

The good candidate will write in a way that is clear and engaged. Lapses in grammar and spelling will be few. Sentences will be varied in length. There will be some indication of an individual style of expression. The argument of the essay will be structured in a way that satisfactorily conveys meaning, sometimes of specific and detailed points. The candidate will write with recognition of the importance of detail and there will be clear referencing to the text. The register will be appropriate with a demonstrable understanding of the two sets of terminology respectively applied while writing about literature and performance.

The excellent candidate will write in a way that is clear, varied and precise in the use of critical vocabulary pertinent to literature and performance. The argument of the essay will be persuasive with perceptive use of referencing and quotation from the novel. The structure of the essay will enhance its persuasive qualities. The register will be effective with a use of sentence structure and language reflecting an individual style of expression that conveys a purposeful argument in a concise manner. The transformation will be explored in specific detail.

Question 3

Criteria A

An average candidate will choose a passage from the novel which is connected to the question dealing with love. The student is likely to justify this choice with a general attempt to put the passage into context with the rest of the novel. The candidate will be capable of selecting some relevant quotation from the text that will go some way to justifying the choice though justifications and rationale for choice are likely to be expressed in general rather than specific terms.

The good candidate will choose a passage that is clearly relevant to the question of love and will justify this choice by placing the selected passage into an active relationship to the rest of the novel. There will be a concern to show the relevance of the context to the question. This will be validated by relevant and detailed quotation from the passage which will establish a coherent link between the text and the question.

The excellent candidate will choose a passage that represents a perceptive approach to the question of love. This will be carefully justified by relating the passage to the context of the novel and the direction of the question. There will be deleted and well selected quotation which justifies the relevance of the selected passage both to the novel and to the question. The quotations will resonate and establish a powerful link between the text and the question.

Criteria B

The average candidate will link ideas contained in the selected passage to ideas for staging it. In this question the importance of human love will be the prominent feature under consideration. What is said and done in the passage will involve the candidate in staging decisions. These are likely to be credible but understood in general terms. Staging choices, while interesting may lack practicality or be a little vague. Production effects will be part of what the candidate explores with possible reference to sound, set design and lighting, not only as a way of registering the drama of the scene but also providing a setting for it. This exploration is likely to be approximate and may lack clear focus and precision. In this sense the relationship between what is being played out on stage may not be always predicated on the key relationship to the audience.

The good candidate will see how action in the selected passage link to dramatic ideas for staging. Ideas for staging will be practical and appropriate cognizance will be taken of the possible ways of employing production elements in order to establish the necessary setting for the drama of love being played out. The nature of the scene and the aspect of love that is dramatized will be interesting and significant. There will be clear justification for the staging choices the candidate adopts with references to the detail of the selected passage. The exploration of the subject of love is likely to be more specific than general with thoughtful choice of textual reference and quotation. The exploration will result in a focused staging. There will be a sense of a developing action and there will be an understanding of the importance of the audience in relation to staging decisions and a consequent appreciation of the link between the audience and what is dramatized on stage.

The excellent candidate will immediately link ideas to in the selected passage to dramatic ideas for staging. The relationship between these ideas will be interesting and relevant to significant aspects of human love in the novel. Ideas for staging will be original and clearly justified, there will be a precise focus on how production elements may be carefully employed to convey the drama of the scene to an audience through the release of the dramatic potential of the original passage. The choice of how the subject of love is dealt with will be insightful and the accompanying setting will complement the action in an evocative way. The exploration of human love will be highly specific with a comprehensive understanding of the exercise of transformation clearly registered by the candidate through apposite reference and quotation. There will be a strong sense for the dramatic meaning the staging will be communicating to an audience.

Criteria C

The average candidate will write clearly but there may be lapses in grammar and spelling. These will not compromise the overall coherence of the essay. The examiner will not have to struggle to confer meaning. The argument of the essay will be reasonably structured but may not be entirely consistent. The candidate will usually write in quite general terms, occasionally managing to be more specific. There will be adequate reference to the text. The register will be satisfactory with some understanding of the two sets of terminology respectively applied while writing about literature and performance.

The good candidate will write in a way that is clear and engaged. Lapses in grammar and spelling will be few. Sentences will be varied in length. There will be some indication of an individual style of expression. The argument of the essay will be structured in a way that satisfactorily conveys meaning, sometimes specific and detailed points. The candidate will write with recognition of the importance of detail and there will be clear referencing to the text. The register will be appropriate with a demonstrable understanding of the two sets of terminology respectively applied while writing about literature and performance.

The excellent candidate will write in a way that is clear, varied and precise in the use of critical vocabulary pertinent to literature and performance. The argument of the essay will be persuasive with perceptive use of referencing and quotation from the novel. The structure of the essay will enhance its persuasive qualities. The register will be effective with a use of sentence structure and language reflecting an individual style of expression that conveys a purposeful argument in a concise manner. The transformation will be explored in specific detail.
