

ENG1501

OCT/NOV 2018

Foundations in English Literary Studies

Duration 2 Hours

100 Marks

EXAMINERS

FIRST
SECOND

DR AE PRETORIUS
MR R FOURIE

MISS EL NORTJE

Closed book examination

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This examination paper consists of 3 pages

This examination paper comprises **two** questions. Answer **both** questions

TURN OVER

Question 1: *When Seasons Come to Pass*

Read the poem below carefully at least twice before attempting to answer the questions that follow. Each question on the poem should be answered in paragraph form (10-15 lines). Remember to quote from the poem to substantiate your answers.

Talking in Bed by Philip Larkin

Talking in bed ought to be the easiest.

Lying together there goes back so far,

An emblem of two people being honest

Yet more and more time passes silently

Outside, the wind's incomplete unrest 5

Builds and disperses clouds about the sky,

And dark towns heap up on the horizon

None of this cares for us. Nothing shows why

At this unique distance from isolation

It becomes still more difficult to find 10

Words at once true and kind,

Or not untrue and not unkind

- 1.1 The first three lines of the poem describe two people in bed in a bedroom trying to have a conversation. Which word in line 1 indicates that talking in bed is sometimes not easy? Write a paragraph explaining how the rest of the poem shows this to be true.
- 1.2 Lines 5-7 move beyond the bedroom to the world outside. Identify the imagery in these lines and explain how this imagery relates to what is happening in the bedroom.

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- 1.3 Line 8 marks a return to the bedroom. Keeping in mind your response to the previous question, explain what the poet means by 'None of this cares for us'.
- 1.4 The final three lines present a contradiction which illustrates why talking in bed can sometimes be difficult. Write a paragraph in which you identify and explain the contradiction and show how it contributes to the poem's central meaning.
- 1.5 What is the overall tone of the poem? Write a paragraph in which you quote words from the poem to substantiate your answer.

25 marks

AND

Question 2: *The Catcher in the Rye*

Paying close attention to the first-person narrative perspective in the novel, discuss whether Holden is a reliable or unreliable narrator. You should refer to and discuss significant moments, concepts, and/or expressions in the novel to support your answer.

In your essay, you should show an understanding of

- narrative perspective or point of view, and
- how this relates to a narrator's reliability or unreliability.

25 marks

Question 1: *The Catcher in the Rye* (J.D. Salinger)

Read the quotation below and then write an essay in response to the question that follows.

The [] main ways we learn about characters in literature [] are through what others say about them, through what they do (their actions) and through what they say or think about themselves. How a character's physical appearance and mannerisms are described can also tell the observant reader about his or her nature and motives. (IELTS 2006: 127)

Using the statement above as a starting point, write an essay in which you show how Salinger constructs Holden as a character who feels lonely, insecure and alienated from his society.

Your essay should be at least five paragraphs in length and should contain an introduction that outlines your central argument, a body that develops this argument by referring to specific examples from the novel, and a conclusion that summarises your main points.

You should not simply provide a summary of Holden as a character. Rather, your essay should

- show an understanding of the different strategies that Salinger uses to construct Holden as a character (consider the strategies mentioned in the quotation)
- show an understanding of narrative perspective and characterisation as elements of fiction
- refer to at least three specific moments, symbols, settings, and/or characters in the novel to support your answer

25 marks

AND

Question 2: *The Road to Mecca* (Athol Fugard)

In *The Road to Mecca*, both Helen and Elsa undergo spiritual journeys. Read the quotation below and answer the question that follows.

Elsa: There is a little sequel to my story about giving that woman a lift. When I stopped at the turn-off and she got out of the car, after I had given her what was left of my food and the money in my purse, after she had stopped thanking me and telling me over and over again that God would bless me, after all of that I asked her who she was. She said, "My English name is Patience." She hitched up the baby, tightened her *doek*,

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picked up her little plastic shopping bag and started walking. As I watched her walk away, measuring the next eighty miles of her life in small steps. I wanted to scream. And about a mile further on, in the *kloof*, I did exactly that. I stopped the car, switched off the engine, closed my eyes and started to scream. (76-77)

In an essay of at least five paragraphs, discuss how the scene described in the quotation relates to Elsa's spiritual journey. Your essay should address the following points:

- what this scene tells us about Elsa's character
- how visiting Helen helps Elsa deal with the difficulties in her own life
- the symbolic significance of Patience's name in relation to Elsa in the rest of the play

Your essay should contain an introduction that outlines your central argument, a body that develops this argument by referring to specific examples from the play, and a conclusion that summarises your main points.

25 marks

TOTAL: 100 marks

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