

A14366W1

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

COURSE I

Paper 2 Literature in English from 1350 to 1550

COURSE II

Paper 3 Literature in English from 1350 to 1550

HONOUR SCHOOL OF CLASSICS AND ENGLISH

Part A, Paper 1 (a) Literature in English from 1350 to 1550

TRINITY TERM 2016

Monday, 16 May, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Time allowed – Three hours

Answer *question one* and *two other* questions. Except where specified, themes can be applied to any author or authors of your choice. You should pay careful attention in your answers to the precise terms of the quotations and questions.

Candidates should not repeat material across different parts of the examination.

Do *not* turn over until told that you may do so.

1. Write a critical commentary on ONE of the following passages, placing it in context and analysing significant points of content and style.

a)

Among thise othere folk was Criseyda,
In widewes habit blak; but natheles,
Right as oure firste lettre is now an A,
In beaute first so stood she, makeles.
Hire goodly lokyng gladed al the prees.
Nas nevere yet seyn thyng to ben preysed derre,
Nor under cloude blak so bright a sterre

5

As was Criseyde, as folk seyde everichone
That hir behelden in hir blake wede.
And yet she stood ful lowe and stille allone,
Byhynden other folk, in litel brede,
And neigh the dore, ay undre shames drede,
Simple of atir and debonaire of chere,
With ful assured lokyng and manere.

10

This Troilus, as he was wont to gide
His yonge knyghtes, lad hem up and down
In thilke large temple on every side,
Byholding ay the ladies of the town,
Now here, now there; for no devocioun
Hadde he to non, to reven hym his reste,
But gan to preise and lakken whom hym leste.

15

And in his walk ful faste he gan to wayten
If knyght or squyer of his compaignie
Gan for to syke, or lete his eighen baiten
On any womman that he koude espye.
He wolde smyle and holden it folye,
And seye hym thus, "God woot, she slepeth softe
For love of the, whan thou turnest ful ofte!

20

"I have herd told, pardieux, of youre lyvyng,
Ye loveres, and youre lewed observaunces,
And which a labour folk han in wynnyng
Of love, and in the kepyng which dountaunces;
And whan youre prey is lost, woo and penaunces.
O veray fooles, nyce and blynde be ye!
Ther nys nat oon kan war by other be."

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(Book I lines 169-203)

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b)

"My Pandarus," quod Troilus, "the sorwe
Which that I drye I may nat longe endure.
I trowe I shal nat lyven tyl to-morwe.
For which I wolde always, on aventure,
To the devysen of my sepulture
The forme; and of my moeble thow dispone
Right as the semeth best is for to done.

5

"But of the fir and flaumbe funeral
In which my body brennen shal to glede,
And of the feste and pleyes palestral
At my vigile, I prey the, tak good hede
That that be wel; and offre Mars my steede,
My swerd, myn helm; and, leve brother deere,
My sheld to Pallas yef, that shyneth cleere.

10

"The poudre in which myn herte ybrend shal torne,
That preye I the thow take and it conserve
In a vessell that men clepeth an urne,
Of gold, and to my lady that I serve,
For love of whom thus pitouslich I sterve,
So yeve it hire, and do me this plesaunce,
To preyen hire kepe it for a remembraunce.

15

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"For wele I fele, by my maladie
And by my dremes now and yore ago,
Al certeynly that I mot nedes dye.
The owle ek, which that hette Escaphilo,
Hath after me shrigh t al thise nyghtes two.
And god Mercurye, of me now, woful wrecche,
The soule gyde, and whan the liste, it fecche!"

25

Pandare answerde and seyde, "Troilus,
My deere frend, as I have told the yore,
That it is folye for to sorwen thus,
And causeles, for which I kan namore.
But whoso wil nought trowen reed ne loore,
I kan nat sen in hym no remedie,
But lat hym worthen with his fantasie."

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(Book V lines 295-329)

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TURN OVER

2. For ther are bokes ynowe
To telle men what Dowel is, Dobet and Dobest both.
(LANGLAND)
3. My soule is stuffed so with stynke of synne,
That ay it dreedith befor thee appeere,
Lest for the filthe which that it is ynne,
Thow torne away thy merciabile cheere.
(HOCCLEVE)
4. So hath myn herte caught in remembraunce
Yowre beaute hole and stidefast governaunce,
Yowre vertues al and yowre hie noblesse,
That yow to serve is sette al my plesaunce.
(CHAUCER)
5. 'The most continuously absorbing theme is the location and unfolding of the sense of self, of interior subjectivity in narrative between the private and public spheres of conduct' (DEREK PEARSALL).
6. Why that is an avision
And why this a revelacion,
Why this a drem, why that a sweven,
And noght to every man lyche even;
Why this a fantome, why these oracles.
(CHAUCER)
7. 'The most enduring principle of medieval drama study has been the conviction that plays become fully accessible only in the moment of performance'
(SHEILA LINDENBAUM).
8. Ye old mule, that think yourself so fair,
Leave off with craft your beauty to repair.
(WYATT)
9. 'O put not yor trust in prynces'
(*Coverdale Bible*, Psalm. 146:3).
10. [...]fraunchyse and felazschyp forbe al þyng, [surpassing]
His clannes and his cortaysye croked were neuer,
And pite, þat passez alle poyntez.
(*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*)
11. 'And all this shall be done,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'as I am trew knyght'
(MALORY).

12. For quhat is it worth to tell ane fenzeit taill, [pretended/made up]
 Quhen haly preiching may na thing auail?
 (HENRYSON)
13. I meen in women, for all thaire cheres queynt,
 Trust not to moche; thaire trouthe is but geson. [scarce]
 The fairest outward wel can they peynt;
 Thayre stedfastnesse endureth but a seson.
 (LYDGATE)
14. 'Goddess worde, ouper wretyn or spokyn, is licnid to a mirour'
 (CLOUD AUTHOR).
15. Love is þoght with gret desire of a faire louynge;
 Loue I lykene to a fyre, þat quenchen may no þynge;
 Loue vs clenseth of our syn, loue our bot shal brynge,
 Loue þe kynges hert may wyn, loue of ioy may synge.
 (ROLLE)
16. 'There are difficulties and comic potentialities in treating the other as if it were
 the same - that is in domesticating the exotic too readily' (JOHN M. FYLER).
17. 'Mankind has something for everyone, for the "sovereigns that sit" and the
 "brothern that stand right up", for the workman, the yeoman, the gentleman - even
 the cleric' (G.A.LESTER).
18. Timor mortis conturbat me. [The fear of death confounds me]
 (DUNBAR)
19. Nou goth sonne vnder wod –
 me reweth, Marie, þi faire Rode.
 Nou goth sonne vnder tre –
 me reweth, Marie, þi sone and þe.
 (ANONYMOUS LYRIC)
20. 'A new company of courtly makers' (PUTTENHAM).
21. A Peire of Bedes blak as Sable
 Sche tok and heng my necke aboute;
 Upon the gaudes al withoute [beads]
 Was write of gold.
 (GOWER)