



ENGLISH LITERATURE ADMISSIONS TEST

4501/11

Thursday 2 November 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Please read this page carefully, but do not open the question paper until you are told that you may do so.

A separate answer booklet with 8 lined pages is provided. Please check you have one.

You should allow at least 30 minutes for reading this question paper, making notes and preparing your answer.

Your answer should only be written on the lined pages inside the answer booklet. No extra paper is allowed for this purpose. The blank inside front and back covers should be used to plan your answer and for any rough working or notes.

At the end of the examination, you must hand in both your answer booklet and this question paper.

No texts, dictionaries or sources of reference may be brought into the examination.

This paper consists of 8 printed pages and 4 blank pages.



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Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes.

You should spend at least 30 minutes reading and annotating the passages and in preparing your answer.

The following passages are all linked by the theme of food. They are arranged chronologically by date of publication. Read all the material carefully, and then complete the task below.

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|-----|--|--------|
| (a) | <i>To The Immortal Memory Of The Halibut, On Which I Dined This Day</i> (1784), a poem by William Cowper | page 4 |
| (b) | From <i>Dante and the Lobster</i> (1934), a short story by Samuel Beckett | page 5 |
| (c) | From <i>Invisible Man</i> (1952), a novel by Ralph Ellison | page 6 |
| (d) | From <i>Picnic at Hanging Rock</i> (1967), a novel by Joan Lindsay | page 7 |
| (e) | <i>Eating Out</i> (1987), a poem by U. A. Fanthorpe | page 8 |
| (f) | From <i>August: Osage County</i> (2008), a play by Tracy Letts | page 9 |

Task:

Select two or three of the passages (a) to (f) and compare and contrast them in any ways that seem interesting to you, paying particular attention to distinctive features of structure, language and style. In your introduction, indicate *briefly* what you intend to explore or illustrate through close reading of your chosen passages.

This task is designed to assess your responsiveness to unfamiliar literary material and your skills in close reading. Marks are not awarded for references to other texts or authors you have studied.

(a) ***To The Immortal Memory Of The Halibut¹, On Which I Dined This Day (1784), a poem by William Cowper***

Where hast thou floated, in what seas pursued
 Thy pastime? when wast thou an egg new-spawn'd,
 Lost in th' immensity of ocean's waste?
 Roar as they might, the overbearing winds
 That rock'd the deep, thy cradle, thou wast safe—
 And in thy minikin and embryo state,
 Attach'd to the firm leaf of some salt weed,
 Didst outlive tempests, such as wrung and rack'd
 The joints of many a stout and gallant bark²,
 And whelm'd them in the unexplor'd abyss.
 Indebted to no magnet and no chart,
 Nor under guidance of the polar fire,
 Thou wast a voyager on many coasts,
 Grazing at large in meadows submarine,
 Where flat Batavia³ just emerging peeps
 Above the brine,—where Caledonia's⁴ rocks
 Beat back the surge,—and where Hibernia⁵ shoots
 Her wondrous causeway far into the main.
 —Wherever thou hast fed, thou little thought'st,
 And I not more, that I should feed on thee.
 Peace therefore, and good health, and much good fish,
 To him who sent thee! and success, as oft
 As it descends into the billowy gulph,
 To the same drag that caught thee!—Fare thee well!
 Thy lot thy brethren of the slimy fin
 Would envy, could they know that thou wast doom'd
 To feed a bard, and to be prais'd in verse.

¹ Halibut: a large, flat white fish

² bark: a type of sailing vessel

³ Batavia: Roman name for land inhabited by the Batavian people – today part of the Netherlands

⁴ Caledonia: Roman name for Scotland

⁵ Hibernia: Roman name for the island of Ireland

(b) From *Dante and the Lobster* (1934), a short story by Samuel Beckett

Starting “His aunt was in the garden, tending whatever flowers die at that time of year. She embraced him and together they went down into the bowels of the earth, into the kitchen in the basement.”

Ending “She lifted the lobster clear of the table. It had about thirty seconds to live.

Well, thought Belacqua, it's a quick death, God help us all.

It is not.”

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(c) From *Invisible Man* (1952), a novel by Ralph Ellison

Starting “I wolfed down the yam and ran back to the old man and handed him twenty cents, “Give me two more,” I said.”

Ending “An unpleasant taste bloomed in my mouth now as I bit the end of the yam and threw it into the street; it had been frost-bitten.”

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(d) From *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (1967), a novel by Joan Lindsay

Starting “In addition to the chicken pie, angel cake, jellies and the tepid bananas inseparable from an Australian picnic, Cook had provided a handsome iced cake in the shape of a heart, for which Tom had obligingly cut a mould from a piece of tin.”

Ending “A battalion of sugar ants, almost bent in half with the effort, were laboriously dragging a piece of icing off the cake towards some subterranean larder dangerously situated within inches of Blanche’s yellow head, pillowed on a rock.”

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(e) ***Eating Out* (1987), a poem by U. A. Fanthorpe**

**Starting “Adventures into rehearsed but unknown living,
Table napkin tucked conscientiously under chin.”**

Ending “Humble *I’ll have whatever you’re having, dear.*”

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(f) From *August: Osage County* (2008), a play by Tracy Letts

Starting “IVY: You like your food, Mom?”

Ending “VIOLET (Screeching): “Where’s the meat?!” “Where’s the meat?!”
“Where’s the meat?!””

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