

Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE English Literature (4360) Paper 03
Coursework (Poetry)

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4360/03 English Literature

Love was the favourite topic of the coursework with a variety of poems being used which gave an unusual and interesting slant on those from other sections of the Anthology.

The meanings of the poems were well understood by most candidates and there was evidence of some appreciation of the language. Unfortunately this appreciation too often took the form of unjustified or vague claims for the effects of the word/phrase quoted or the figure of speech named. There was little or no precise analysis of the words themselves, just an emotional response to them. Some typical examples were: "Pain could be felt throughout the repetition of the title 'For Me From You', seven times"; "Using a metaphor 'your words have poured' proves how unhappy she was because she realised that these words don't indicate true feelings or real love"; and "notice the effect of alliteration in 'World! why, when, want.'" with no further detail of the effect or the reason for it.

Candidates should beware of spending too much time on biographical details of the poets. While this frequently has some contextual relevance it is important that the relevant details are selected from a general biography. Where complete biographies were given they tended to rely on outside sources such as the Internet with no, or at most very little, attempt to reword them.

Centres are reminded that it is necessary for each centre to carry out an internal standardisation when more than one teacher is assessing the candidates' work. This did not appear to have happened in every case this time. It is essential that each centre's rank order can be relied on in order to moderate by sample. Also it must be remembered that the specification states that each piece of work should examine three poems and these must be taken from the Literature Anthology.

Overall within the coursework the responses, some linked to personal circumstances, were thoughtful and sensitive and all candidates, at whatever level, seemed to have gained from the experience of studying the poems.

iGCSE English Literature:

Option 1

01 WRITTEN (DRAMA AND PROSE)

02 WRIT.ALTERNATIVE (POETRY)

Paper No	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Lwr	81	72	63	54	44	34	25	16

Option 2

01 WRITTEN (DRAMA AND PROSE)

03 COURSEWORK (POETRY)

Paper No	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Lwr	83	72	61	51	41	31	22	13

Option 3

01 WRITTEN (DRAMA AND PROSE)

03T TRANSF.COURSEWORK(POETRY)

Paper No	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Lwr	83	72	61	51	41	31	22	13

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.

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