

Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2012

International GCSE English Literature
(4ET0/01)
Paper 1: Drama and Prose

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Introduction

This English Literature examination successfully enables a wide range of candidates to show their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Drama and Prose texts they have studied.

This examination lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes; there are two sections to the paper, Section A – Drama – and Section B – Prose.

There is a choice between two questions: character or theme.

The total number of marks available is 60.

Texts are not allowed into the examination.

Quality of Written Communication is assessed in this examination (in almost all cases, neutral to the band).

Centres appeared confident with the expectations of this examination. The cohort for this second series was different than the legacy International GCSE 4360: almost the same ratio of 'home' to 'overseas' candidates.

Examiners reported that again changes had occurred with ease and that there was still a pleasant familiarity between 'old' and 'new'. Time management did not appear to cause any problems.

Candidate choices – Texts

Many candidates opted for the familiar texts *A View from the Bridge* (100 total entry) or *Romeo and Juliet* (40 total entry) from the Drama section. From the Prose section of the paper, the familiar text *Of Mice and Men* was popular with candidates (120 total entry).

It is obvious that 'home' centres have influenced the choice of texts, as many chose texts that are popular with GCSE.

Information for Centres

Most responses from candidates showed a clear focus and there was evidence of a successful learning style. Many sophisticated responses came from candidates who explored both the writer's craft and the historical/cultural context. Many students demonstrated a sound knowledge of essay structures: aspects of literature had often been taught thoroughly.

Candidates exploring the roles of Friar Lawrence and the Nurse in question 1(a) did so extremely well. Likewise, question 10, which proved to be the most popular text, provided examiners with some analytical responses: question (a) on Curley's wife proving to be as popular as question (b) on the themes of anger and violence.

Less focused responses came from question 2(b) which asked for the significance of the title *The Importance of Being Earnest*; responses often

did not fully engage with the question, tending to focus too much on the central male characters.

The least popular texts were: *Our Town* (1 total entry) and 19th Century Short Stories (2 total entries).

I am glad to report that there were fewer students who wrote detailed plans and had therefore not finished their essay response in time. It was also the case that a smaller cohort had attempted to 'cram' in as many quotations as possible into their responses, for the sake of quoting.

Generally though, examiners reported that many scripts had gained marks appertaining to the higher levels and that many of these had gained full marks.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

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