

H 38

OXFORD HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1946

MONDAY, JULY 8. TIME ALLOWED—3 HOURS

English II C, 1700-1790

[Answer Question 1 and FOUR other questions. You should not write more than a dozen lines on each of the extracts which you choose in Question 1.]

1. Relate four of the following extracts to their contexts, and comment on any points that are of interest or need explanation:—

- (a) These equal syllables alone require,
Tho' oft the ear the open vowels tire;
While expletives their feeble aid do join;
And ten low words oft creep in one dull line.
- (b) There hapless Shakespeare, yet of Tibbald sore,
Wish'd he had blotted for himself before.
- (c) 'Tis done—he steps into the welcome chaise,
Lolls at his ease behind four handsome bays,
That whirl away from business and debate
The disincumber'd Atlas of the state.
- (d) I wonder almost that, as the Bacchanals served Orpheus, the boys and girls do not tear this husky, dry commentator limb from limb, in resentment of such an injury done to their darling poet.
- (e) To put them out of their old way is to put them out of humour; they have therefore quarrelled with the almanac, and refuse to keep their Christmas according to Act of Parliament.
- (f) The camel and dromedary themselves might have lost much of their dignity between *the true flour of mustard* and the *original Daffy's elixir*; and I could not but feel some indignation when I found this illustrious Indian warrior immediately succeeded by *a fresh parcel of Dublin butter*.

2. **Either**, (a) 'Pope's poetry is a noble and affecting record of his capacity for friendship.' Discuss.

Or, (b) Illustrate the variety of tone and rhythm in Pope's heroic couplets.

3. Cowper once remarked that retirement was his passion and delight. Show how **either** his poems **or** his letters illustrate this.

4. 'Despite some external peculiarities in customs and manners, human nature and the social scene as depicted in the literature of the eighteenth century were much as they are today.' Examine this comment.

5. '*The Rivals* is remarkable for breadth, rather than for subtlety, of characterization. We recognize the types from a few broad strokes as soon as they appear on the stage, and the subsequent course of the play reveals nothing further about them.' Discuss.

6. **Either**, (a) 'To Party gave up what was meant for Mankind.' Can Burke be fairly regarded as merely a 'party' writer?

Or, (b) Consider Burke's powers in the art of persuasion.

7. Gray said that extreme conciseness of expression, yet pure, perspicuous, and musical, is one of the great beauties of lyric poetry. Consider in the light of this ideal the poetry of Gray himself **or** the poetry of Collins **or** of Burns.

8. What qualities fitted Boswell to be an ideal biographer of Dr. Johnson?

9. Showing first-hand knowledge, give an account of **one** of the following:—*The Journal to Stella*; *The Seasons*; *The Beggar's Opera*; *Joseph Andrews*; *Rasselas*; *Chesterfield's Letters*; *Retaliation*; *The Critic*.