



MERIDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE  
JC2 Preliminary Examination  
Higher 2

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**H2 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**9748/03**

Paper 3: Individual and Society

17 September 2015

**3 Hours**

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

Set texts may be taken into the examination room. They may bear underlining or highlighting.

Any kind of folding or flagging of papers in texts (e.g. use of post-its, tape flags or paper clips) is not permitted.

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer three questions, one from each of Sections A, B and C.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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This document consists of 5 printed pages and 1 blank page.

<b><i>Candidates must fill in this section</i></b>		<b><i>Examiner's Use only</i></b>	
<b><i>Name</i></b>		<b><i>Question No.</i></b>	<b><i>Total Score</i></b>
		<b>1 (    )</b>	<b>25</b>
		<b>2 (    )</b>	<b>25</b>
<b><i>Registration No.</i></b>	<b><i>Class</i></b>	<b>3 (    )</b>	<b>25</b>
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>75</b>

1

What candles may be held to speed them all?  
 Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes      10  
 Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.  
 The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall<sup>2</sup>;  
 Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,  
 And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

<sup>2</sup> *pall*: coffin or coffin cover

**OR (b) Write a critical commentary on the following extract from W.S Merwin's "The Dachau Shoe" (1970), paying particular attention to the way it explores relationships between the individual and society.**

**'Dachau' refers to the Nazi concentration camp in World War Two Germany located near the town of Dachau.**

My cousin Gene (he's really only a second cousin) has a shoe he picked up at Dachau. It's a pretty worn-out shoe. It wasn't top quality in the first place, he explained. The sole is cracked clear across and has pulled loose from the upper on both sides, and the upper is split at the ball of the foot. There's no lace and there's no heel. 5

He explained he didn't steal it because it must have belonged to a Jew who was dead. He explained that he wanted some little thing. He explained that the Russians looted everything. They just took anything. He explained that it wasn't top quality to begin with. He explained that the guards or the kapos<sup>3</sup> would have taken it if it had been any good. He explained that he was lucky to have got anything. He explained that it wasn't wrong because the Germans were defeated. He explained that everybody was picking up something. A lot of guys wanted flags or daggers or medals or things like that, but that kind of thing didn't appeal to him so much. He kept it on the mantelpiece for a while but he explained that it wasn't a trophy. 10

He explained that it's no use being vindictive. He explained that he wasn't. Nobody's perfect. Actually we share a German grandfather. But he explained that this was the reason why we had to fight that war. What happened at Dachau was a crime that could not be allowed to pass. But he explained that we could not really do anything to stop it while the war was going on because we had to win the war first. He explained that we couldn't always do just what we would have liked to do. He explained that the Russians killed a lot of Jews too. After a couple of years he put the shoe away in a drawer. He explained that the dust collected in it. Now he has it down in the cellar in a box. He explains that the central heating makes it crack worse. He'll show it to you, though, any time you ask. He explains how it looks. He explains how it's hard to take it in, even for him. He explains how it was raining, and there weren't many things left when he got there. He explains how there wasn't anything of value and you didn't want to get caught taking anything of that kind, even if there had been. He explains how everything inside smelled. He explains how it was just lying out in the mud, probably right where it had come off. He explains that he ought to keep it. A thing like that. 15 20 25

You really ought to go and see it. He'll show it to you. All you have to do is ask. It's not that it's really a very interesting shoe when you come right down to it but you learn a lot from his explanations. 30

**[Turn over**

<sup>3</sup> *kapos*: German slang for a foreman, or a privileged prisoner in a concentration camp who acted as a supervisor.

**Section B**

Answer one question in this section, using two texts that you have studied.  
The texts used in this section cannot be used in Section C.

**2**

**EITHER (a)** How far and in what ways do **two** texts present individuals as survivors in their social world?

**Or (b)** Compare ways in which authors of **two** texts explore the importance of companionship in relation to ideas about the individual and society.

[Turn over

## Section C

Answer one question in this section, using one text that you have studied.  
The text used in this section cannot be used in Section B.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE: THE SCARLET LETTER

3

**EITHER** (a) Discuss the significance of Chillingworth's relationship with Dimmesdale to the text's exploration of the individual and society.

**Or** (b) "Let God punish! Thou shalt forgive!"  
In what ways and with what effects is forgiveness explored in *The Scarlet Letter*?

MAXINE HONG KINGSTON: THE WOMAN WARRIOR

4

**EITHER** (a) "How does Hong-King use the form of the memoir to explore concerns about the individual and society in The Woman Warrior?"

**Or** (b) In what ways and with what effects does Hong-Kingston present madness in relation to ideas about the individual and society in The Woman Warrior?

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

3

**EITHER** (a) "The blind are – leading the blind!" (Scene 2)  
How far does this statement accurately describe how individuals interact with each other and the social world in this play?

**Or** (b) Consider the significance of the play's title, and how it sheds light upon the concerns of the individual and society.

**End of Paper**

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