



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI
Eswatini General Certificate of Secondary Education

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

6875/02

Paper 2 (Unseen Text)

October/November 2019

1 hour 20 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer booklet/paper

As listed in Instructions to Supervisors

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

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

Answer **either** Question **1** or Question **2**.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes reading the questions and planning your answer.

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

Both questions in this paper are worth 20 marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

Answer either Question 1 or Question 2.

EITHER

- 1 Read the following extract, in which Isabella finds an empty house and everyone, including her baby, gone.

In what ways do you think the writer has created an atmosphere of panic and desperation?

In your response you may consider:

- the writer's choice of words
- how Isabella's actions and their effects are described
- your feelings as you read the passage.

Her legs went soft and boneless under her, and she sank down against the wall and sat on the tiled floor with them sprawled out loosely in front of her as though they were disjointed at her hips. She read the note again, and then again, but it didn't make sense.

'My baby,' she whispered. 'My little Nicky.' And then she read the terrible words aloud "Your disobedience will have dire consequences for Nicky. You may never see him again." 5

She let the hand holding the note drop into her lap and she stared at the wall opposite. She felt as though the world and her entire existence had been swept away. It left her as blank and meaningless as that empty expanse of brickwork in front of her. 10

She did not know how long she sat there, but at last with a supreme effort she roused herself. Using the wall as a support, she regained her feet. Once more, she climbed the stairs to their bedroom and went directly to Ramon's cupboard. She threw the doors open, and found that it also was empty. Even the coat hangers were gone. She moved listlessly to his chest of drawers, and opened each empty drawer. Ramon had left nothing. 15

She wandered back to Nicky's alcove¹, moving like the survivor of a bomb blast, dazed and uncoordinated, and knelt beside the empty cot. 20

'My baby,' she whispered. 'What have they done with you?' Then she saw that something had slipped down between the baby mattress and the wooden bars of the cot. She eased it free, and held it in both hands. Kneeling at the cot as though it were the high altar, she held the sacrament in her hands. It was one of Nicky's booties, a scrap of soft knitted wool with a blue satin ribbon as the drawstring for his chubby pink ankle. She lifted it to her face and inhaled the perfumed baby-smell of her son. 25

Only then she began to weep. She swept with a bitter ferocity that drained her strength and left her exhausted. By that time, the terrace and the bedroom were filled with the shades of evening and she had only the strength left to crawl to the double bed and curl up on it. As she fell asleep she held the woollen bootie pressed to her cheek. 30

It was still dark when she awoke. She lay for long seconds with the dark sense of doom overpowering her, uncertain of its origin or cause. Then suddenly it all came back to her and she struggled upright and looked about her with horror. 35

Ramon's note lay on the table besides the bed. She took it up and reread it, still trying to make sense of it. 40

'Ramon my darling, why are you doing this to us?' she whispered. Then, obedient to his instructions, she carried the note to the bathroom and standing over the toilet-bowl tore it into tiny scraps. She dropped these into the bowl and flushed them away. She knew that every word will be graven on her mind forever; she had no need nor wish to converse with that dreadful sheet of paper. 45

She showered and dressed and made herself a slice of toast and a pot of coffee. They were without taste. Her mouth felt numb as though it had been scalded with boiling water. 50

Then she set herself to search the apartment thoroughly. She began in Adra's room. There was no trace left of Adra Olivares, not a shred of clothing, not a pot or a tube of ointment or cosmetics in her bathroom, not even a single hair from her head on the pillow of her bed. 55

Then she went over the living-room and kitchen; again there was nothing, except the hired furniture and crockery and the remains of food in the refrigerator. 60

She went up to the bedroom. There was a small wall-safe in the back of Ramon's cupboard, but the steel door was ajar and all the documents were missing. Nicky's birth certificate and adoption papers were gone with them. 65

She sat down on the bed and tried to think clearly, attempting desperately to find a reason for this madness. She went round and round, trying to examine it from every possible angle.

She was driven remorselessly to a single conclusion. Ramon was in deep trouble. 65

Glossary

1. *alcove*: a small space in a room, formed by one part of a wall being set back than the other parts of each side.

Or

- 2 Read the following poem about a girl who has been forced by tribal laws to be the wife of an old man.

How and in what ways does the poet create emotions in the reader?

In your response you may consider

- the poet's choice of words and the images created
- the feelings of the poet and their influence on you
- the structure of the poem

The Child Wife

They gave me to an old man,
 Joyless and old,
 Life's smile of promise
 So soon to frown.
 Inside his gunya 5
 My childhood over,
 I must sit for ever,
 And the tears fall down.

It was love I longed for,
 Young love like mine, 10
 It was Dunwa wanted me,
 The gay and brown.
 Oh, old laws that tether me!
 Oh, long years awaiting me!
 And the grief comes over me, 15
 And the tears fall down.

Happy the small birds
 Mating and nesting,
 Shrilling their gladness
 No grief may drown. 20
 But an old man's gunya
 Is my life for ever,
 And I think of Dunwa,
 And the tears fall down.

Glossary

1. *gunya*: an aboriginal hut or shelter made of sheets of bark and branches