

External assessment 2023

Question book

English SEE

SEE 2 Paper 1

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

Section 1

Instructions

- There is one question for each of the three prescribed texts.
 - Respond to the question for your selected text.
 - Respond in 500–700 words in the response book.
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Mushrooms by Sylvia Plath

Overnight, very
Whitely, discreetly,
Very quietly

Diet on water,
On crumbs of shadow,
Bland-mannered, asking

Our toes, our noses
Take hold on the loam,
Acquire the air.

Little or nothing.
So many of us!
So many of us!

Nobody sees us,
Stops us, betrays us;
The small grains make room.

We are shelves, we are
Tables, we are meek,
We are edible,

Soft fists insist on
Heaving the needles,
The leafy bedding,

Nudgers and shovers
In spite of ourselves.
Our kind multiplies:

Even the paving.
Our hammers, our rams,
Earless and eyeless,

We shall by morning
Inherit the earth.
Our foot's in the door.

Perfectly voiceless,
Widen the crannies,
Shoulder through holes. We

QUESTION

Create a monologue around the concept of **rebellion**, developing a character who can be explored by using the literary text as a springboard.

Your monologue should express or challenge ideas, attitudes, values and/or beliefs that underpin the original poem to shape representations and perspectives.

Your monologue may be set in the same time and place as the poem or a different time and place.

OR

***Whoever She Was* by Carol Ann Duffy**

They see me always as a flickering figure
on a shilling screen. Not real. My hands,
still wet, sprout wooden pegs. I smell the apples
burning as I hang the washing out.
Mummy, say the little voices of ghosts
of children on the telephone. Mummy.

A row of paper dollies, cleaning wounds
or boiling eggs for soldiers. The chant
of magic words repeatedly. I do not know.
Perhaps tomorrow. If we're very good.
The film is on a loop. Six silly ladies
torn in half by baby fists. When they
think of me, I'm bending over them at night,
to kiss. Perfume. Rustle of silk. Sleep tight.

Where does it hurt? A scrap of echo clings
to the bramble bush. My maiden name
sounds wrong. This was the playroom.
I turn it over on a clumsy tongue. A grain.
There are the photographs. Making masks
from turnips in the candlelight. In case they come.

Whoever she was, forever their wide eyes watch her
as she shapes a church and steeple in the air.
She cannot be myself and yet I have a box
of dusty presents to confirm that she was here.
You remember the little things. Telling stories
or pretending to be strong. Mummy's never wrong.
*You open your dead eyes to look in the mirror
which they are holding to your mouth.*

QUESTION

Create a monologue around the concept of **sacrifice**, developing a character who can be explored by using the literary text as a springboard.

Your monologue should express or challenge ideas, attitudes, values and/or beliefs that underpin the original poem in order to shape representations and perspectives.

Your monologue may be set in the same time and place or a different time and place as the poem.

OR

***To My Brothers* by John Keats**

Small, busy flames play through the fresh laid coals,
And their faint cracklings o'er our silence creep
Like whispers of the household gods that keep
A gentle empire o'er fraternal souls.
And while, for rhymes, I search around the poles,
Your eyes are fix'd, as in poetic sleep,
Upon the lore so voluble and deep,
That aye at fall of night our care condoles.
This is your birth-day Tom, and I rejoice
That thus it passes smoothly, quietly.
Many such eves of gently whisp'ring noise
May we together pass, and calmly try
What are this world's true joys, — ere the great voice,
From its fair face, shall bid our spirits fly.

QUESTION

Create a monologue around the concept of **brotherhood**, developing a character who can be explored by using the literary text as a springboard.

Your monologue should express or challenge ideas, attitudes, values and/or beliefs that underpin the original poem in order to shape representations and perspectives.

Your monologue may be set in the same time and place or a different time and place as the poem.

References

Plath, S 1960, 'Mushrooms', *The Colossus: Poems by Sylvia Plath*, Heinemann, UK,
www.gutenberg.ca/ebooks/plaths-thecolossus/plaths-thecolossus-00-e.html.

Duffy, CA 1985, 'Whoever she was', *Carol Ann Duffy: Collected Poems*, Pan Macmillan UK.

Keats, J 2014, 'To my brothers', *The Poetry of John Keats*, Copyright Group.



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