SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

COURSE I
Paper 3 Literature in English from 1550 to 1660

COURSE II
Paper 6 (a) Literature in English from 1550 to 1660

HONOUR SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND ENGLISH
Literature in English from 1550 to 1660

TRINITY TERM 2020

SAMPLE PAPER

Time allowed – Two hours and forty minutes

Answer two questions. Except where specified, themes can be applied to any author or authors of your choice. You should pay careful attention in your answers to the precise terms of the quotations and questions.

Candidates should not repeat material across different parts of the examination.
1. ‘As figures be the instruments of ornament in every language, so be they also in a sort abuses, or rather trespasses, in speech, because they pass the ordinary limits of common utterance, and be occupied of purpose to deceive the ear and also the mind, drawing it from plainness and simplicity to a certain doubleness’ (GEORGE PUTTENHAM).

Discuss EITHER rhetoric OR deception in any literature of the period.

2. ‘Man is a Noble Animal, splendid in Ashes, and pompous in the Grave, solemnizing Nativities and Deaths with equal lustre, nor omitting Ceremonies of Bravery in the infamy of his nature. Life is a pure Flame, and we live by an invisible Sun within us’ (THOMAS BROWNE).

3. Long languishing in double malady,
   Of my harts wound and of my bodies griefe:
   There came to me a leach that would apply
   Fit medicines for my bodies best relieve.

   (EDMUND SPENSER)

Discuss the relation between body and mind in any literature of the period.

4. Razza, a kind, a race, a brood, a blood, a stock, a pedigree.
   (Definition of Italian word ‘Razza’ by JOHN FLORIO)

5. Fortune, I know, sometimes doth conquer kings,
   And rules and reigns on earth and earthly things,
   But never think Fortune can bear the sway
   If virtue watch, and will her not obey.

   (QUEEN ELIZABETH)

6. When god brought Eve to Adam for a bride
   The text says she was taken from out mans side
   A symbol of that side, whose sacred blood
   Flowed for his spouse, the Church’s saving good.
   This is a mystery, perhaps too deep
   for blockish Adam that was fallen asleep.

   (Poem from ANNE SOUTHWELL’S commonplace book)

Discuss representations of sex AND/ OR gender in writings of the period.

7. I saw Eternity the other night
   Like a great Ring of pure and endless light,
   All calm, as it was bright,
   And round beneath it, Time in hours, days, years
   Driv’n by the spheres.

   (HENRY VAUGHAN)
8. Now thou art all great Britain, and no more, 
No Scot, no English now, nor no debate: 
No Borders but the Ocean, and the Shore, 
No wall of Adrian serves to separate. 
(SAMUEL DANIEL)

9. Sir, more than kisses, letters mingle souls, 
For thus, friends absent speak. 
(JOHN DONNE to HENRY WOTTON)

10. ‘The strangeness of this opinion is no sufficient reason why it should be rejected, because other certain truths have been formerly esteemed ridiculous, and great absurdities entertained by common consent’ (JOHN WILKINS, on the proposition that the moon may be a world).

Discuss literature of the period in relation to ANY of the following: scientific discovery; debate; popular opinion.

11. Thus I complained, but Love unlocked his quiver, 
Took out the shaft, ordained my heart to shiver, 
And bent his sinewy bow upon his knee, 
Saying, “Poet, here’s a work beseeming thee.” 
(Translation of OVID’S Amores by CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE)

Discuss EITHER translation and adaptation OR representations of same-sex desire in any literature of the period.

12. ‘The world is made by symmetry and proportion, and is in that respect compared to music, and music to poetry’ (THOMAS CAMPION).

13. ‘She [Venice] ministered unto me more variety of remarkable and delicious objects than mine eyes ever surveyed in any city before, or ever shall, if I should with famous Sir John Mandeville our English Ulysses spend thirty whole years together in travelling over most places of the Christian and Ethnic world’ (THOMAS CORYATE).

Discuss any aspect of this quotation in relation to writing about travel and exploration.

14. Who would write well for the abused stage 
When only swelling words do please the age? 
And malice is thought wit, to make’t appear 
They judge they mis-interpret what they hear. 
(JOHN HALL)

15. Owls do screech where the sweetest hymns 
Lately were sung, 
Toads and serpents hold their dens 
Where the palmers did throng. 
(Manuscript poem, ‘Lament for our Lady’s Shrine at Walsingham’)
16. ‘Not only Libraries and shops, are full of our putid [moral corrupt] papers, but every close-stool and jakes [toilet]; they serve to put under pies, to lap [wrap] spice in, and keep roast meat from burning [...] Who can read them? as already, we shall have a vast Chaos and confusion of books’ (ROBERT BURTON).

Discuss the relation between book and text in any literature of the period.

17. ‘I cannot settle my object; it goeth so unquietly and staggering, with a natural drunkenness [...] Were my mind settled, I would not essay, but resolve myself’ (MICHEL DE MONTAIGNE).

18. So raised above the tumult and the crowd
I see the city in a thicker cloud
Of business than of smoke; where men like ants
Toil to prevent imaginary wants.

(JOHN DENHAM)

19. Ask no more why I’m in tears dissolved:
Whilst our good king with sorrow is involved,
To pray and weep for him I am resolved.

(HESTER PULTER)

Discuss the political uses of literature in the period.