

2018 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD EXAM
Theme: The Poetry of War and Peace

HOME LANGUAGE PAPER

DATE: Tuesday, 6 March 2018

TIME ALLOCATION: 3 HOURS
+ up to ½ hour reading time.

TEXT: *We Will Remember Them*

TOTAL MARKS: 100

You may have with you in the examination venue:

- pens, pencils, rulers and erasers
- the anthology *We will Remember Them* (may contain underlining or highlighting but no notes)
- your dictionary

You may **not** have the Study Guide or any other paper with notes, documents, cell phones or information retrieval systems of any kind.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write all answers in the Examination Booklet.
2. Write the section and number of the question above each answer, and start each question at the top of a new page.
3. On the cover of the Examination Booklet, please clearly indicate:
 - your school's English Olympiad Exam Number
 - your personal Exam Number
 - each **section** and the **number of the question** that you have answered from that section (e.g. Section A: 4 & Section B:3 AND Section C)

Do NOT write your name, your address or your school's name on the cover, or anywhere in your Examination Booklet.
4. Answer:
 - a) One question from **SECTION A**
 - b) One question from **SECTION B**
 - c) ALL the questions from **SECTION C**

Regarding **Section A:**

We invite you to express your own ideas in response to the questions, using your own voice. There are no model answers but do remember that you are expected to refer liberally to the text, demonstrating a prepared and personal response to the material contained therein.

NB: You are invited to draw from your extended reading, but remember that the main focus of your essay should be upon texts contained in the anthology.

We value your responses. Feel free to draw from any poems in the anthology, whether marked NEP or for study. Enjoy the experience!

CAUTION for SECTION B: You may not answer a question in Section B on an author whose writing you discussed in Section A. If you do so, your answer will not be considered.

DO NOT TURN OVER THIS PAGE UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GIVES YOU PERMISSION.

Select ONE of the following options and write an essay of 450 – 500 words in response to your chosen topic. ESSAYS IN EXCESS OF THE PRESCRIBED LENGTH WILL BE PENALISED ACCORDINGLY.

CAUTION: When you answer Section B, you may not answer a question on an author whose writing you discuss here in Section A. If you do so, your answer will not be considered.

QUESTION 1

*My name is Ozymandius, king of kings
Look on my works, ye mighty and despair.*

From *Ozymandius* by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Looking at both pre- and post 20th Century, discuss at least three poems that reflect leaders' desire for glory, conquest or immortality .

(50)

QUESTION 2

*You too
Are what
You are –*

From *That which you are* by Margaret Gough

Discuss whether man is programmed to kill or not. Consider at least three poems which look either at war and killing as an aberration or as intrinsic to the human condition.

(50)

QUESTION 3

Their poetry states, in varying degrees of subtlety and explicitness, that they will remain human, alive and free in the face of whatever destructive forces outside reality might be aiming at them.

Robert Royston: Preface: *To Whom it may Concern*

Discuss the degree to which the poets of the Struggle were able to remain above the "destructive forces" that assailed them at that time. Refer to at least three poems from the *Part 6 – War and Peace in South Africa*.

(50)

QUESTION 4

It is said that great leaders have never chosen peace. With reference to the anthology, discuss why peace is a myth, or at best fragile or fleeting.

(50)

QUESTION 5

*And there are some who have no memorial
Who have perished as though they had not lived...*

From *Ecclesiasticus 44*

Discuss three or more poems that focus particularly on memorials, reflecting the futility or irony of honouring the dead by putting up a memorial or remembering them on a particular day.

(You are free to choose any three poems including poems marked NEP, but worth considering are: *Anthem for Doomed Youth; On Passing the New Menin Gate; For the Fallen*)

(50)

QUESTION 6

The following is taken from an article entitled “Street or Elite” that appeared in a *Wordfest* newspaper publication of 2007, in which Professor Paul Walters of Rhodes University draws parallels between Kwaito, Hip Hop and protest poetry. The traditionalist argument laid out by Professor Walters is that “There needs to be something more enduring” to make poetry worthy of literary status.

Consider the following poems and discuss the extent to which each is either jingoistic nonsense or of enduring value: *The Soldier; The Charge of the Light Brigade; Heritage Day*.

(50)

QUESTION 7

A soldier above all prays for peace for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wound.

Douglas MacArthur

With reference to at least three poems from the anthology, discuss the truth of this statement.

(50)

QUESTION 8

All war poetry is actually anti-war poetry.

Discuss the degree to which you agree with this statement by referring to at least three poems from the anthology.

(50)

TOTAL MARKS SECTION A [50]

Kindly turn the page for Section B

Select **ONE** of the following options. Remember that your answer will be assessed based on your appropriateness of register and diction. Your answer should be between 180-220 words in length.

CAUTION: You may not answer a question on an author whose writing you discussed in Section A. If you do so, your answer will not be considered.

QUESTION 1

You are a comrade in an Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre with instructions to address a group of youth gathered the evening before the June 16th Protest. Write the **speech** you would deliver, making use of propaganda techniques and referring to at least two poems. (20)

QUESTION 2

As a supporter of non-violence, write the **lyrics of a song** to be sung at a Peace Rally. Your lyrics can be in 4 to 5 rhymed quatrains or 20 lines of free verse. You may draw liberally from themes of poems in the anthology, and the appropriate allusion to other poems will enhance the content of your answer. (20)

QUESTION 3

It is two months since young Lieutenant Magee has earned his wings in Canada. Passionate about flying he is desperate to join the struggle in Europe. He is accepted into the R.A.F. and receives his call to duty. Write a **diary entry** the eve before his taking off on his first assignment. His diary entry may include a line or two of poetry, either quoted from the anthology or created by you. (20)

QUESTION 4

While I remember, Callaghan, don't forget to write to his next of kin. Usual sort of letter; tell them he died a soldier's death, anything you like. I'm not going to report it as suicide.

From *Goodbye to All That*, a Memoir by Robert Graves

You are Captain Callaghan. Write the **body of the letter** you are instructed to write to Private P. Gibbons' next of kin. Make use of propaganda; use all the politically correct and supportive language you can muster in order to seem sincere. You must also appear to have known the soldier well, and that you were with him or close to him when he died. (No address necessary – about 150 words)

AND

Write an official **short account** of no longer than three unadorned sentences, to your Commanding Officer, detailing the real cause of death of Private P. Gibbons. (20)

Section B continues on the next page.

QUESTION 5

November again , and the bugles blown
In a tropical Holy Trinity,
The heroes today stand further off, grown
Smaller but distinct. They flash no medals, keep
No ranks: through Last Post and Reveille
Their chins loll on their chests, like birds asleep.
Only when the long, last note ascends
Upon the wings of kites, some two or three
Look up: and have the faces of my friends.

No Ordinary Sunday – Jon Stallworthy ; 1935



Write a sympathetic **review** of a Memorial Service held at a private boys' school, attempting to answer a wave of protest on social media decrying such events as elitist, or at best, belonging in the past. Your piece might accompany this image and the above extract from Jon Stallworthy's poem.

(20)

QUESTION 6

Sassoon was admitted to Craiglockhart Park for a nervous breakdown. As soon as he got out of hospital he continued his protest against the war, submitting this poem entitled *I stood with the dead* to a left wing magazine.

*I stood with the dead... They were dead, they were dead,
My heart and my head beat a march of dismay
And gusts of the wind came dulled by the guns,
'Fall in,' I shouted, 'Fall in for your pay.'*

When an army chief read the poem he wrote angrily to the editor: "If Lieutenant Sassoon is now writing verse like this, his mind is still in chaos and he is not fit to be trusted with men's lives. "

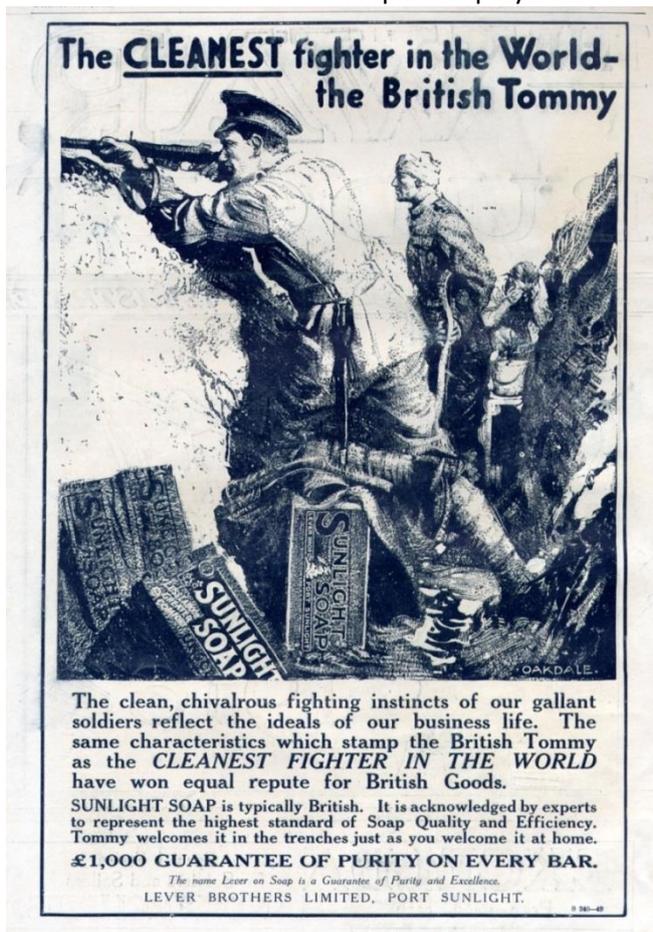
Write a **dialogue** in which Sassoon is interviewed by a representative of the War Office (an army chief) and a psychiatrist from Craiglockhart Park. Sassoon is to put forward his case against the War.

(20)

QUESTION 7

Closely observe the advertisement below and analyse it in terms of

- Intention/desired outcome
- Effectiveness of Techniques employed



(20)

TOTAL MARKS SECTION B [20]

Kindly turn the page for Section C

NB: There is no choice in this section. Answer ALL questions.

1. If someone describes Sipho as *determined*, he is being seen in a **positive** light: he is prepared to take a stand on something. If, on the other hand, he is described as *stubborn*, he is being seen in a **negative** light: he is not prepared to change his views despite there being good reasons for him to do so. The first word can be labelled as a **purr word**, while the second can be labelled as a **snarl word**.

The following list includes five pairs of words. Although they are similar in meaning, one of each pair is a **purr word** and the other is a **snarl word**. Divide the list into five pairs of words of similar meaning (not opposites). Make two columns of words, indicating which is a purr word and which is a snarl word. List them as matched pairs as in the example given.

For example:

PURR WORD	SNARL WORD
determined	stubborn

List of words (match these as pairs as in the example above):

facetious; meticulous; fussy; modest; complacent; witty; humble; boastful; contented; servile; proud; bashful (5)

2. The following is an extract from a pamphlet issued by Hitler's propaganda officer in September/October 1944:

There are no good or bad parasites, decent or indecent parasites (lice!).

The battle to the end.

The Jew wants to force us back to a life of slavery so that he can live off us as a parasite and suck us dry. The healthy life of our people stands against the parasitic life of the Jew.

Who in this struggle can still speak of pity, brotherly love, etc.? Who believes that a parasite (e.g., a louse) can be improved or changed? Who believes that one can come to an agreement with a parasite? We can only choose between being devoured by the parasite or destroying it.

The Jew must be destroyed wherever we meet him!

List SIX techniques of propaganda used here, along with a reference to the text to illustrate one example of the technique. (Note: (a) No marks will be awarded without a reference. (b) You may use the same reference for more than one technique.)

(12)

3. Read the following piece of war propaganda and then answer the question set:

Another sneak raid was attempted yesterday on a residential area in the North. There were no casualties, and trivial damage only was done by this futile attack. An aircraft that had been beaten off in a cowardly attack on an inland town, made a brief and furtive appearance through heavy cloud and jettisoned a few bombs at random.

Imagine that you are a reporter in the country that made the attack and rewrite the passage by replacing the original words with others to slant the passage in favour of your country. List the numbered spaces 1 – 10 giving your suggested changes.

Another **1**..... raid was **2** yesterday on a residential area in the North. There were **3**, and **4** was done by this **5**..... attack. An aircraft that had **6** in a **7** attack on an inland town, made a brief and **8** appearance through heavy cloud and jettisoned **9** bombs **10**

(10)

4. Imagine that your country is at war with another country called Nambia (whose people are known as Nambians). Write a *slogan* that could be used in your country's propaganda war. (3)

TOTAL SECTION C [30]

GRAND TOTAL MARKS = 100