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English A: literature – Standard level – Paper 1
Anglais A : littérature – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 1
Inglés A: Literatura – Nivel Medio – Prueba 1

3 May 2023 / 3 mai 2023 / 3 de mayo de 2023

Zone A afternoon	Zone B morning	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B matin	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B mañana	Zona C tarde

1 h 15 m

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write a guided analysis of text 1 or text 2.
- Use the guiding question or propose an alternative technical or formal aspect of the text to focus your analysis.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[20 marks]**.

Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Rédigez une analyse dirigée du texte 1 ou du texte 2.
- Utilisez la question d'orientation ou proposez une autre manière d'aborder le texte en choisissant un aspect technique ou formel sur lequel concentrer votre analyse.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[20 points]**.

Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un análisis guiado del texto 1 o del texto 2.
- Utilice la pregunta de orientación o proponga otro aspecto técnico o formal del texto en el que centrar su análisis.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[20 puntos]**.

Write a guided analysis of **one** of the following texts.

1. The following is an extract from the novel *A Strange and Sublime Address* by Amit Chaudhuri. A family in Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta) is relaxing after Sunday lunch.

Later, after washing their hands, they went up to the second and topmost storey of the house. Sandeep's mother and Mamima reclined on the large bed. Their conversation was a transparent stream that occasionally trickled into desert patches of silence. Chhotomama¹ turned on the radio, which began to babble immediately like the local idiot:

- 5 'Both grandson and grandfather love eating Thin Arrowroot Biscuits.'
 'Nothing's as kind to your skin as Boroline Antiseptic Cream.'

He lay back on the small bed, secure as a soldier in his trench, with the newspaper in his hands; he folded it several ways and made it crackle festively. His face and arms drowned in the black and white ocean of the newspaper, surfacing intermittently. Sighing regretfully Chhotomama
 10 fell asleep, the newspaper covering his face. When the breath came up from his nostrils, the newspaper rose and fell lightly, as if it were breathing as well. On the big bed, Mamima and Sandeep's mother began to dream, sprawled in vivid crab-like postures. His aunt lay on her stomach, her arms bent as if she were swimming to the edge of a lake; his mother lay on her back, her feet (one of which had a scar on it) arranged in the joyous pose of a dancer.

15 A mournful song now came on the radio. It was an old radio, a wedding-gift, shaped like a box, with outdated knobs and dials. When Sandeep was younger, he had thought there were little men, talented homunculi², inside the box of the radio, who performed those songs. But that seemed long ago. Beside the radio, there was a clock with a white face which always ran ten minutes fast. Every night, the time was readjusted, and every morning, with great accuracy, it had
 20 gained ten minutes. At about half past four, when the clock said twenty to five, the grown-ups woke and stretched their arms like reluctant children. The Sunday lunch, then the Sunday nap – and the thought of Monday, that difficult day, was aborted. The radio crackled with the nervous, breathless sound of football commentary; dust had settled on the furniture and floor of the house.

25 Calcutta is a city of dust. If one walks down the street, one sees mounds of dust like sand-dunes on the pavements, on which children and dogs sit doing nothing, while sweating labourers dig into the macadam with spades and drills. The roads are always being dug up, partly to construct the new underground railway system, or perhaps for some other obscure reason, such as replacing a pipe that doesn't work with another pipe that doesn't work. At such times, Calcutta is like a work of modern art that neither makes sense nor has utility, but exists for some esoteric
 30 aesthetic³ reason. Trenches and mounds of dust everywhere give the city a strange, bombed-out look. The old houses, with their reposeful walls, are crumbling to slow dust, their once-gleaming gates are rusting. Dust flakes off the ceilings in offices; the buildings are becoming dust, the roads are becoming dust.

¹ Chhotomama: Sandeep's uncle

² homunculi: very small human creatures

³ esoteric aesthetic: specialized artistic

– By what means, and to what effect, does the author create the atmosphere in this passage?

2. The following text is a poem by Edward Thomas.
-

The Owl

Downhill I came, hungry, and yet not starved;
Cold, yet had heat within me that was proof
Against the North wind; tired, yet so that rest
Had seemed the sweetest thing under a roof.

- 5 Then at the inn I had food, fire, and rest,
Knowing how hungry, cold, and tired was I.
All of the night was quite barred out except
An owl's cry, a most melancholy cry

- Shaken out long and clear upon the hill,
10 No merry note, nor cause of merriment,
But one telling me plain what I escaped
And others could not, that night, as in I went.

- And salted was my food, and my repose,
Salted and sobered, too, by the bird's voice
15 Speaking for all who lay under the stars,
Soldiers and poor, unable to rejoice.

- How, and to what effect, is tone used to shape the meaning of the poem?
-

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References:

1. A STRANGE AND SUBLIME ADDRESS by Amit Chaudhuri. Copyright © 2015, Amit Chaudhuri, used by permission of The Wylie Agency (UK) Limited.
2. Thomas, E., 1915. *The owl*. [online] Poetry Foundation. Available at: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/53777/the-owl-56d23364d7256> [Accessed 10 June 2022].