

|       |                 |      |
|-------|-----------------|------|
| Class | Register Number | Name |
|-------|-----------------|------|



南洋女子中學校  
Nanyang Girls' High School

**Mid-Year Examination 2015  
Secondary Three**

**Advanced Literature (HP)**

**1 hour  
45 minutes**

**Thursday**

**14 May 2015**

**1030 hrs – 1215 hrs**

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

1. Write your name on your answer script.
2. Use **dark blue or black ink**.
3. Do not use correction fluid / tape.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

1. Answer **both Question 1 (Section A) and Question 2 (Section B)**.
2. Begin your answer to Section B on a **fresh** sheet of paper.
3. Number your answers clearly.
4. You are reminded of the need for good English and legible handwriting.

**Setter:**

This document consists of 5 printed pages,  
including this cover page.

V Heng

**[Turn over]**

## SECTION A: SET TEXT

### A Streetcar Named Desire – Tennessee Williams

Read the extract below and answer the question that follows.

**BLANCHE:** But I'll think of something, I've *got* to think of—*something*! Don't, don't laugh at me, Stella! Please, please don't—I—I want you to look at the contents of my purse! Here's what's in it! [*She snatches her purse open.*] Sixty-five measly cents in coin of realm!

**STELLA:** [*crossing to bureau*] Stanley doesn't give me a regular allowance, he likes to pay bills himself, but—this morning he gave me ten dollars to smooth things over. You take five of it, Blanche, and I'll keep the rest.

**BLANCHE:** No, thank you—I'll take to the streets!

**STELLA:** Talk sense! How did you happen to get so low on funds?

**BLANCHE:** Money just goes—it goes places. [*She rubs her forehead.*] Sometime today I've got to get hold of a bromo!

**STELLA:** I'll fix you one now.

**BLANCHE:** Not yet—I've got to keep thinking!

**STELLA:** I wish you'd just let things go, at least for a—while...

**BLANCHE:** Stella, I can't live with him! You can, he's your husband. But how could I stay here with him, after last night, with just those curtains between us?

**STELLA:** Blanche, you saw him at his worst last night.

**BLANCHE:** On the contrary, I saw him at his best! What such a man has to offer is animal force and he gave a wonderful exhibition of that! But the only way to live with such a man is to—go to bed with him! And that's your job—not mine!

**STELLA:** After you've rested a little, you'll see it's going to work out. You don't have to worry about anything while you're here. I mean—expenses...

**BLANCHE:** I have to plan for us both, to get us both—out!

**STELLA:** You take it for granted that I am in something that I want to get out of.

**BLANCHE:** I take it for granted that you still have sufficient memory of Belle Reve to find this place and these poker players impossible to live with.

**STELLA:** Well you're taking entirely too much for granted.

**BLANCHE:** I can't believe you're in earnest.

**STELLA:** No?

**BLANCHE:** I understand how it happened—a little. You saw him in uniform, an officer, not here but—

**STELLA:** I'm not sure it would have made any difference where I saw him.

**BLANCHE:** Now don't say it was one of those mysterious electric things between people! If you do I'll laugh in your face.

**STELLA:** I am not going to say anything more at all about it!

**BLANCHE:** All right, then don't!

**STELLA:** But there are things that happen between a man and a woman in the dark—that sort of make everything else seem—unimportant. [*Pause*]

**BLANCHE:** What you are talking about is brutal desire—just—Desire!—the name of that rattle-trap street-car that bangs through the Quarter, up one old narrow street and down another...

**STELLA:** Haven't you ever ridden on that street-car?

**BLANCHE:** It brought me here.—Where I'm not wanted and where I'm ashamed to be...

**STELLA:** Then don't you think your superior attitude is a bit out of place?

**BLANCHE:** I am not being or feeling at all superior, Stella. Believe me I'm not! It's just this.

This is how I look at it. A man like that is someone to go out with—once—twice—  
three times when the devil is in you. But live with! Have a child by?

**STELLA:** I have told you I love him.

*A Streetcar Named Desire* – Tennessee Williams  
(from Scene IV)

1.

- (a) What does the extract reveal about the characters of Blanche and Stella?
- (b) How does the extract contribute to your understanding of the play as a tragedy, with reference to character and plot development?

[30]

**[Please turn over]**

## SECTION B: LITERARY RESPONSE

Read the texts below and answer the question that follows.

(i)

### **We Grow Accustomed to the Dark**

We grow accustomed to the Dark –  
When light is put away –  
As when the Neighbor holds the Lamp  
To witness her Goodbye –

A Moment – We uncertain step  
For newness of the night –  
Then – fit our Vision to the Dark –  
And meet the Road – erect –

And so of larger – Darkness –  
Those Evenings of the Brain –  
When not a Moon disclose a sign –  
Or Star – come out – within –

The Bravest – grope a little –  
And sometimes hit a Tree  
Directly in the Forehead –  
But as they learn to see –

Either the Darkness alters –  
Or something in the sight  
Adjusts itself to Midnight –  
And Life steps almost straight.

Emily Dickinson (1862)

(ii)

**Acquainted with the Night**

I have been one acquainted with the night.  
I have walked out in rain -- and back in rain.  
I have outwalked the furthest city light.

I have looked down the saddest city lane.  
I have passed by the watchman on his beat  
And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain.

I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet  
When far away an interrupted cry  
Came over houses from another street,

But not to call me back or say good-bye;  
And further still at an unearthly height,  
A luminary clock against the sky

Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right.  
I have been one acquainted with the night.

Robert Frost (1927)

2. (a) With reference to point of view, imagery and structure, compare and contrast the poet's treatment of the subject-matter.

(b) Say which of the poems you prefer, making clear the reason(s) for your choice.

[30]