

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



南洋女子中學校
NANYANG GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
SECONDARY THREE BLOCK TEST 1

8 April 2011

50 mins

Friday

Advanced Literature (HP)

0845-0935 am

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

You are reminded of the need for good English and legible handwriting.

Unseen Poetry
Read the question carefully before writing your answer.

The RMS Titanic was the largest passenger steamship in the world with a capacity of 2,227 passengers, when she set off on her maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York City on 10 April 1912. The Titanic sank on April 14, 1912 after a collision with an iceberg and 1,517 lives were lost.

Read carefully the two poems concerning the tragedy of the *Titanic*, then answer the question.

- (a) Compare the two poems, focusing on how perspective, tone and structure contribute to the effectiveness in conveying the tragedy.
- (b) Say which of the poems you prefer, making clear why this is so.

Convergence Of The Twain (Lines On The Loss Of The "Titanic") – Thomas Hardy (1912)

In a solitude of the sea
Deep from human vanity,
And the Pride of Life that planned her, stilly couches she.

Steel chambers, late the pyres
Of her salamandrine fires,
Cold currents thrid, and turn to rhythmic tidal lyres.

Over the mirrors meant
To glass the opulent
The sea-worm crawls -- grotesque, slimed, dumb, indifferent.

Jewels in joy designed
To ravish the sensuous mind
Lie lightless, all their sparkles bleared and black and blind.

Dim moon-eyed fishes near
Gaze at the gilded gear
And query: "What does this vaingloriousness down here?" ...

Well: while was fashioning
This creature of cleaving wing,
The Immanent Will that stirs and urges everything

Prepared a sinister mate
For her -- so gaily great --
A Shape of Ice, for the time far and dissociate.

And as the smart ship grew
In stature, grace, and hue,
In shadowy silent distance grew the Iceberg too.

Alien they seemed to be;
No mortal eye could see
The intimate welding of their later history,

Or sign that they were bent
By paths coincident
On being anon twin halves of one august event,

Till the Spinner of the Years
Said "Now!" And each one hears,
And consummation comes, and jars two hemispheres.

After The Titanic

(written from the perspective of Bruce Ismay, the director of the White Star Line Company that owned the Titanic)

Derek Mahon (1967)

They said I got away in a boat
And humbled me at the inquiry. I tell you
I sank as far that night as any
Hero. As I sat shivering on the dark water
I turned to ice to hear my costly
Life go thundering down in a pandemonium of
Prams, pianos, sideboards, winches,
Boilers bursting and shredded ragtime. Now I hide
In a lonely house behind the sea
Where the tide leaves broken toys and hat-boxes
Silently at my door. The showers of
April, flowers of May mean nothing to me, nor the
Late light of June, when my gardener
Describes to strangers how the old man stays in bed
On seaward mornings after nights of
Wind, takes his cocaine and will see no-one. Then it is
I drown again with all those dim
Lost faces I never understood. My poor soul
Screams out in the starlight, heart
Breaks loose and rolls down like a stone.
Include me in your lamentations.

[30m]

-END-