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南洋女子中学校
NANYANG GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

SECONDARY THREE
END OF YEAR EXAMINATION

7 OCTOBER 2011

1045-1245 (2 hours)

Friday

Advanced Literature (HP)

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 **two** questions: *one* from Section A and *one* from Section B.
2. You are reminded of the need for good English and legible handwriting.

SECTION A: SET TEXTS [30marks]

Choose EITHER 1 or 2.

1. Novel: Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*

It is not possible for readers to truly enjoy the story in TOTS because the novella is incomplete.

Discuss this statement with reference to your reading of the text.

OR

2. Play: Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

In *Death of a Salesman*, Miller has formulated a statement about the nature of human crises in the twentieth century...' (from Approaches to Miller).

Discuss this statement with reference to your reading of the text.

SECTION B: UNSEEN TEXTS [30marks]

Choose EITHER 3 or 4

3. Read and analyse Texts 3A and 3B, and then answer the question that follows:

Text 3A

An Old Man's Winter Night

All out of doors looked darkly in at him
Through the thin frost, almost in separate stars,
That gathers on the pane in empty rooms.
What kept his eyes from giving back the gaze
Was the lamp tilted near them in his hand.
What kept him from remembering what it was
That brought him to that creaking room was age.
He stood with barrels round him – at a loss.
And having scared the cellar under him
In clomping there, he scared it once again
In clomping off;-- and scared the outer night,
Which has its sounds, familiar, like the roar
Of trees and cracks of branches, common things,
But nothing so like beating on a box.
A light he was to no one but himself
Where he now sat, concerned with he knew what,
A quiet light, and then not even that.
He consigned to the moon, such as she was,
So late-arising, to the broken moon
As better than the sun in any case
For such a charge, his snow upon the roof,
His icicles along the wall to keep;
And slept. The log that shifted with a jolt
Once in the stove, disturbed him and he shifted,
And eased his heavy breathing, but still slept.
One aged man –one man –can't keep a house,
A farm, a countryside, or if he can,
It's thus he does it of a winter night.

Robert Frost

Text 3B

R.J. Bowman, who for fourteen years had traveled for a shoe company through Mississippi, drove his Ford along a rutted dirt path. It was a long day! The time did not seem to clear the noon hurdle and settle into soft afternoon. The sun, keeping its strength here even in winter, stayed at the top of the sky, and every time Bowman stuck his head out of the dusty car to stare up the road, it seemed to reach a long arm down and push against the top of his head, right through his hat – like the practical joke of an old drummer, long on the road. It made him feel all the more angry and helpless. He was feverish, and he was not quite sure of the way.

This was his first day back on the road after a long siege of influenza. He had had very high fever, and dreams, and had become weakened and pale, enough to tell the difference in the mirror, and he could not think clearly. ...All afternoon, in the midst of his anger, and for no reason, he had thought of his dead grandmother. She had been a comfortable soul. Once more Bowman wished he could fall into the big feather bed that had been in her room....Then he forgot her again.

This desolate hill country! And he seemed to be going the wrong way – it was as if he were going back, far back. There was not a house in sight.....There was no use wishing he were back in bed, though. By paying the hotel doctor his bill he had proved his recovery. He had not even been sorry when the pretty trained nurse said goodbye. He did not like illness, he distrusted it, as he distrusted the road without signposts. It angered him. He had given the nurse a really expensive bracelet, just because she was packing her bag and leaving.

But now – what if in fourteen years on the road he had never been ill before and never had an accident? His record was broken, and he had even begun almost to question it....He had gradually put up at better hotels, in the bigger towns, but weren't they all, eternally, stuffy in summer and drafty in winter? Women? He could only remember little rooms within little rooms, like a nest of Chinese paper boxes, and if he thought of one woman he saw the worn loneliness that the furniture of that room seemed built of. And he himself – he was a man who always wore rather wide-brimmed black hats, and in the wavy hotel mirrors he looked something like a bullfighter., as he paused for that inevitable instant on the landing, walking downstairs to supper. ...He leaned out of the car again, and once more the sun pushed at his head.

Bowman had wanted to reach Beulah by dark, to go to bed and sleep off his fatigue, As he remembered, Beulah was fifty miles away from the last town, on a graveled road. This was only a cow trail. How had he ever come to such a place? One hand wiped the sweat from his face, and he drove on.

He had made the Beulah trip before. But he had never seen this hill or this petering out path before – or that cloud he thought shyly, looking up and

then down quickly – anymore than he had seen this day before. Why did he not admit he was simply lost and had been for miles?...He was not in the habit of asking the way of strangers, and these people never knew where the very roads they lived on went to; but then he had not even been close enough to anyone to call out. People standing in the fields now and then, or on top of the haystacks, had been too far away, looking like leaning sticks or weeds, turning a little at the solitary rattle of his car across their countryside, watching the pale sobered winter dust where it chunked out behind like big squashes down the road. The stares of these distant people had followed him solidly like a wall, impenetrable, behind which they turned back after he had passed.

Excerpt from *Death of a Traveling Salesman* by Theodora Welty

3. In what ways do the writers draw attention to the issues faced by the speakers in each case? Remember to examine structure, language and tone.

OR

4. Read and analyse texts 4A and 4B and then answer the question that follows.

Text 4A

Where is it written

That husbands get twenty-five dollar lunches and invitations to South America for think conferences while

Wives get Campbell's black bean soup and a trip to the firehouse with the first grade and

Where is it written

That husbands get to meet beautiful lady lawyers and beautiful lady professors of

Ancient History and beautiful sculptresses and heiresses and poetesses while

Wives get to meet the checker with the acne at the Safeway¹ and

Where is it written

That husbands get a nap and the Super Bowl² on Sundays while

Wives get to help color in the coloring book and

Where is it written

Husbands get ego gratification, emotional support, and hot tea in bed for ten days when they have the sniffles while

Wives get to give it to them?

And if a wife should finally decide

Let him take the shoes to the shoemaker and the children to the paediatrician and the dog to the vet while she takes up something like brain surgery or transcendental meditation,

Where is it written

¹ Supermarket chain in America

² Championship game for the National Football League in the United States of America

That she always has to feel
Guilty?

Judith Viorst

Text 4B

To account for, and excuse the tyranny of man, many ingenuous arguments have been brought forward to prove, that the two sexes, in the acquirement of virtue, ought to aim at attaining a very different character: or to speak explicitly, women are not allowed to have sufficient strength of mind to acquire what really deserves the name of virtue. Yet it should seem, allowing them to have souls, that there is but one way appointed by Providence to lead *mankind* to either virtue or happiness.

If then women are not a swarm of ephemeron triflers, why should they be kept in ignorance under the specious name of innocence? Men complain, and with reason, of the follies and caprices of our sex, when they do not keenly satirize our headstrong passions and groveling vices. Behold, I should answer, the natural effect of ignorance! The mind will ever be unstable that has only prejudices to rest on, and the current will run with destructive fury when there are no barriers to break its force. Women are told from their infancy, and taught by the example of their mothers, that a little knowledge of human weakness, justly termed cunning, softness of temper, *outward* obedience, and a scrupulous attention to a puerile kind of propriety, will obtain for the protection of man; and should they be beautiful, everything else is needless, for, at least, twenty years of their lives.

How grossly do they insult us who thus advise us only to render ourselves gentle, domestic brutes! For instance, the winning softness so warmly, and frequently, recommended, that governs by obeying. What childish expressions, and how insignificant is the being – can it be an immortal one? Who will condescend to govern by sinister methods! ‘Certainly,’ says Lord Bacon, ‘man is of kin to the beasts by his body; and if he be not of kin to God by his spirit, he is a base and ignoble creature!’ Men, indeed, appear to me to act in a very unphilosophical manner when they try to secure the good conduct of women by attempting to keep them always in a state of childhood. Rousseau was more consistent when he wished to stop the progress of reason in both sexes, for if men eat of the tree of knowledge, women come in for a taste; but, from the imperfect cultivation which their understandings now receive, they only attain a knowledge of evil.

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797). *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. 1792, Chapter II

4. Compare the two texts in terms of perspective, tone and language. Which of the two texts do you find more successful in conveying the intended meaning? Remember to use text references in your answer.

[END]

Nanyang Girls'