



Name and Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

**ST. FRANCIS SECONDARY SCHOOL  
HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATION SPECIMEN PAPER**

**FORM 4**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

<b>A</b> Drama - <i>Macbeth</i> 25%		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>B</b> Poetry – <i>The Dragon Book of Verse</i> 25%		
<b>C</b> Prose – <i>Animal Farm</i> 25%		
<b>D</b> Unseen Text 25%		

Choose **ONE** question from each of **SECTIONS A, B, C** and answer **ALL** questions in **SECTION D**. You are reminded of the necessity for good English and orderly presentation of material. Answers should be supported by evidence from the texts (**quotations**) and should be written in the **present tense**.

**SECTION A - DRAMA 25 marks      *MACBETH* - William Shakespeare**

1

“Is this a dagger which I see before me,  
The handle towards my hand? Come, let me clutch thee:-  
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.  
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible  
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but  
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,  
Proceeding from the heat-oppresed brain?  
I see thee yet, in form as palpable  
As this which now I draw.  
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;  
And such an instrument I was to use.”

- a. Explain the circumstances in which Macbeth says these words. (5 marks)
- b. What has the audience learnt of Macbeth's state of mind so far in the play? You need to refer to different scenes in your answer. (20 marks)

2. 'Lady Macbeth is chiefly responsible for Macbeth's ruin'. Do you agree? Give valid reasons for your answer.

3. Compare and contrast Macbeth and Banquo.

**SECTION B - POETRY** 25 marks

**THE NEW DRAGON BOOK OF VERSE - Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clark (eds.)**

1. The poem *The Sea* begins with the line, "The sea is a hungry dog" and ends with the line, "So quiet, so quiet, he scarcely snores". Clearly analyse the way James Reeves describes this change.
2. 'A poem should leave a lasting impression'. Write about **two** poems from the theme of *Reflections* that have made you reflect on their theme and explain how this is explored by the poets concerned.
3. By referring closely to imagery, diction and other literary devices, explain how **two** poems you have studied have helped you appreciate the beauty and value of poetry.

**SECTION C - PROSE** 25 marks **ANIMAL FARM – George Orwell**

1. 'The more power one has, the more corrupt one is likely to become'. Show that this is one of Orwell's main concerns in *Animal Farm*.
2. 'The animals revolt against a horrible system.' Write about why the animals rebel and the importance of Old Major's speech in this revolt.
3. What is the importance of any **THREE** of the following in *Animal Farm*: (a), Napoleon (b) Benjamin, (c) Squealer, (d) Boxer. (Refer to the part they play and the impression they made on you.)

**SECTION D - UNSEEN TEXT** 25 marks

Read the following poem carefully and then answer ALL the questions that follow:

**Truth**

Sticks and stones may break my bones, 1  
but words can also hurt me.  
Stones and sticks break only skin,  
while words are ghosts that haunt me.

Slant and curved the word-swords fall 5  
to pierce and stick inside me.  
Bats and bricks may ache through bones,  
but words can mortify me.

Pain from words has left its scar 10  
on mind and heart that's tender.  
Cuts and bruises now have healed;  
it's words that I remember.

Barrie Wade

1. This poem is about: (Choose the correct answer) (2 marks)
- a) The beauty of language.
  - b) Physical pain resulting from an accident.
  - c) Words spoken to hurt others.
  - d) The healing power of words.

- 2a. Work out the rhyme scheme of the first stanza. (2 marks)

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- 2b. Quote an example of rhyming words from stanza 3.

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3. Clearly explain the effect of the image in line 4. Pay particular attention to the diction used. (4 marks)

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4. Name the figures of speech in the following images and explain the effect of one of them: **(4 marks)**

a. "... word-swords ..." (line 5) \_\_\_\_\_

b. "... break my bones" (line 1) \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Comment upon the metre of the poem. Has the poem got a steady beat or does it vary? **(2 marks)**

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6. Quote one example of enjambment. Explain its effect. **(3 marks)**

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7. Explain the imagery and diction in lines 7/8. Refer to both the visual imagery as well as the sound imagery. **(4 marks)**

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8. In your opinion, is the title of the poem, *Truth*, suitable? Comment on what you find interesting and effective in the poem. Do not forget to quote. **(4 marks)**

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Saint Francis