

Teacher's Notes

FOR THE SECTION ON MODEL ANSWERS

SECTION SEVEN

Discussion

This preferably should be made as part of the most effective approaches to help students prepare for the examination paper. In my experience though students may be good in providing brilliant answers, they can make poor candidates for examinations because they have not been trained to write in examination conditions.

This would simply mean that they must be able to manage their time, to write the answers within the time allotted. They must also be trained to read questions and answer the questions by marshaling the facts to what is required. It needs practice to be able to effectively answer literature questions.

The model answers provided are exceptionally long sometimes and it may not be possible to answer like this in an examination. However, it is only a model and students need to develop their own style and their own comfortable length in due course.

Having said all this let us consider the following comments that applies to candidates sitting for this paper:

“The Board requires... some relevant information and some ability to handle it and to present the case. No amount of sociological or other jargon, just wandering from page after page, is an acceptable substitute. It is quite possible that if many candidates have less information, or less sophisticated information, and more skill in presenting their knowledge and ideas, they would have received higher marks.”

This is an abstract is from, Report of Examiners in Government and Politics. A.E.B. A-level June 1975.

Literature questions often ask questions in which the student is asked to make a judgement. Sometimes the question takes a form of a quotation which the student is asked to discuss. For instance:

‘The slap-stick comedy scenes spoil the play.’ Consider this comment with reference to *Twelfth Night*.

To answer this question, one must have studied the play closely, one must know the plot, one must also understand the characters, and must be familiar – either from listening to the teacher or from one's own reading of the play.

Secondly one must make a judgement. Does the slap-stick comedy spoil the play or rather it adds to the appreciation of the play. This question does also involve some **abstract terms** which need definition. So one must know the subject well enough to marshal the ideas and provide a convincing answer. In other words the student should use the knowledge of the play and provide a reasoned judgement.

This needs practice. The model answers provide some ideas on how to acquire this important skill.

Teachers will find *Twelfth Night Typical Examination Questions and Answers* from COLES PUBLISHING COMPANY an excellent source for model questions and answers questions