
GENERAL PAPER

8001/23

Paper 2

October/November 2015

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

You are required to answer **one** question.

This Insert contains three passages, one for each of Questions 1 to 3. You need to study the passage for the question you have chosen before starting your answer. The time needed to do this is allowed for within the time set for the examination.



This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Passage 1 Study Christopher Hart’s review of the book *Thirty Great Myths about Shakespeare*, by Laurie Maguire and Emma Smith, to answer Question 1 parts (a)–(h).

We think we know certain things about our greatest but most elusive writer – including the fact that he is enticingly elusive. He was, so the thinking goes, unhappily married to Anne Hathaway; he only had a basic education but a huge vocabulary; and if he were alive today he would probably be working in Hollywood.

In a book that manages the rare feat of exercising scholarly caution and good sense throughout, while still providing a highly entertaining portrait of the man himself, Oxford academics Laurie Maguire and Emma Smith examine 30 of the best-known rumours about Shakespeare and, on the whole, demolish them. Even the idea that he is especially mysterious, always key to any ‘Shakespeare was really someone else’ theory, is flatly untrue. 5

We actually know a great deal about Shakespeare’s life and movements, the authors point out – far more than many other near contemporaries. Along with the plays and sonnets, and plenty of material on his family in Stratford-upon-Avon, we also have documents showing Shakespeare involved in court cases and purchasing property, and we have his will. 10

There are also some significant things Shakespeare didn’t do, which may help understand his personality. Consider the increasingly popular idea that he was a secret Catholic. This offers the thrill of the hidden and the illicit – for example, secret codes in his poems. The way the authors unpick this particular myth is brilliantly lucid. 15

Evidence for Shakespeare’s Catholicism is allegedly the religious landscape of *Hamlet*, in which the soul of Hamlet’s murdered father is clearly in hell. The religious references in the plays do ‘theatrical not religious work’, Maguire and Smith assert, and his own ‘religious beliefs become less a matter of individual biography and more a snapshot of contemporary shifts, uncertainties and overlaps’. 20

Here’s another myth the book attacks. Far from being only basically educated, Shakespeare would have benefited from the rigorous education of the sixteenth-century grammar school, 6 am to 6 pm every day, with higher classes conducted in Latin. He never went to university, true, but we can tell from the sources of his plays that he remained a voracious reader all his life: medieval poetry, Italian fiction, history ancient and medieval, even contemporary continental philosophy, and he could read in French and Italian, too. 25

Contrary to another myth, Shakespeare didn’t have a particularly extravagant vocabulary by Elizabethan standards. He coined some new words, but so did everyone else: Thomas More gave us the word lunatic, Francis Bacon gave us thermometer and skeleton. It is the sheer volume and familiarity of what he wrote that explain why he is so often credited in the original Oxford English Dictionary as the originator of words – but as the OED has been revised, and as more sixteenth-century texts have been digitally searched, so the number of new words attributed to Shakespeare has ‘substantially decreased’. 30 35

This points to the reason why he wouldn’t much like Hollywood today. It may be a dream factory, like his theatre, and it has the money and huge audiences – but it is primarily visual, not verbal, and Shakespeare was infatuated with language. Maguire and Smith suggest that, rather than film, he might have been more interested in radio.

The Shakespeare the authors give us is not an especially warm man. They point to an obvious lack of charitable giving or concern for the less fortunate. In his will he left the poor of his birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, a derisory sum of cash, no bursaries, no scholarships, no endowments. Everything else stayed in the family. 40

And what are we to make of the ‘second-best bed’ left in his will as an afterthought, and

seemingly an insulting one, to his wife? Maybe it was the marriage one, the best bed being kept for guests, as some have suggested. The authors rebuke such theories as ‘sentimental’, and insist that we will never really know, though I personally can never believe that, however aloof and financially careful he was, Shakespeare would have left behind such a deliberately spiteful will. 45

Sensibly, the authors hardly bother with the more fringe theories about ‘who really wrote Shakespeare’s plays’, only observing that if it were indeed the Earl of Oxford, it is ‘difficult to explain’ how he achieved this ‘with his negligible poetic skill’. Quite. From the Earl’s slim work, I give you this line: ‘Thus like a woeful wight I wove the web of woe.’ And this was the guy who wrote *King Lear*? Yeah, right! 50

Passage 2 Study the information below to answer Question 2 parts (a)–(g).

Please note that sections marked with a line [_____] have been left blank deliberately.

Introduction

Belle, an 18 year old student at Esperanza Academy, is attending a careers interview with her class teacher, Mr Forti. She is hoping for some insightful guidance as she is very undecided about further study and which career path to follow.

Mr Forti: Hi Belle! Take a seat. Now, tell me, what are you intending to do with regards to a career?

Belle: Well... you see... the problem is I haven't got a clue and I'm really stressing about it, Sir. Could I _____?

Mr Forti: Come, come, Belle. That's not the attitude I expect from a student like you! I just read in the newspaper the other day that there is a shortage of forensic accountants. It sounded like a really interesting job – you look back over a company's books so you get to see the internal workings of an organisation in fine detail. Combing through all their records does sound so absorbing, doesn't it? Don't you agree? 5
10

Belle: Er... the problem is, Sir, that... you remember... I wasn't doing that well in my mathematics tests earlier this year and so you arranged for me to have extra tuition at lunchtime from Mrs Harvanto. By the way, she's really good and I am regaining my confidence slowly but surely, but not enough to consider a career so dependent on being brilliant at mathematics. 15

Mr Forti: Hmm, in that case, how about... *(running his finger down a list of professions on his desk in front of him)*... financial advisor?

Belle: *(in a tone of exasperation mixed with disappointment)* Sir!

Mr Forti: Oh yes, of course. OK then, let me think... a colleague was only talking about his son yesterday who works in logistics and loves it so much that he is climbing the corporate ladder at an astonishing rate. What would you say to that? 20

Belle: I don't know, Sir. What exactly do you mean by logistics? I've never even heard of that before. Has it got something to do with being logical?

Mr Forti: *(appearing suddenly very flustered)* Right... perhaps not then. Let me put my thinking cap on. We need to go in another direction, don't we? Ah, another idea has just come to me! Someone I caught on a TV programme recently was extolling the virtues of a career in the field of design. How does that sound to you? Apparently there are lots of different types of design too – graphic, interior, fashion, product, car, aeronautical, marine – the list is endless. And what's more, there is a worldwide demand for such skills. 25
30

Belle: That does sound interesting, but I gave up design technology and art years ago, so I don't think that would be a realistic option for me, do you?

Mr Forti: *(looking mildly irritated now)* No, I suppose not. Swiftly moving on then. My niece is thoroughly enjoying her studies in retail management. She is on the graduate programme of a multinational organisation, and, when she finishes it, the world will be her oyster. She will be highly qualified, have work experience under her 35

belt, be able to travel extensively, and there are lots of opportunities for promotion as there are plenty of successful companies in this area. What's not to like?

- Belle: Sorry, Sir, but, although that sounds amazing and congratulations to your niece, I don't think it is really me. I can't say I relish the whole shopping experience because I find shops, department stores and malls a bit claustrophobic, especially when I get caught up in crowds of shoppers pushing and shoving. It just doesn't interest me, I'm afraid. Though, now I'm talking it out with you, I would say my people and communication skills are among my strong points. 40
- Mr Forti: (*becoming frustrated*) Remind me, Belle, what your favourite subject is again? 45
- Belle: Oh, Sir, I absolutely adore English. You do know, don't you, that I am in the Debating Society, the Book Circle and the Drama Club too? And I'm getting excellent feedback from my information technology teacher too. She thinks that my PowerPoint presentation is first rate and she wants me to show it at Speech Day. 50
- Mr Forti: (*triumphantly*) I've got it! What would you say to a career in _____?
- Belle: Phew, what a good idea! Thank goodness you suggested that, Sir. I was beginning to _____.

Passage 3 Study the information below to answer Question 3 parts (a)–(d).

Three student friends want to celebrate finishing university by going on holiday. They have agreed on a five-day city break as their ideal option.

A Information about the friends:

Joy is a history graduate, heavily into the arts in all their forms, so, as long as there is some aspect of appreciating the arts factored into the weekend, she will be happy because she is an easy-going character. Swimming is her other great love, especially outdoors. In addition, she likes going out to eat, and trying out different cuisines.

Benni a psychology graduate, is a very keen music lover who is adamant about including a musical element in the weekend. For him this is not negotiable. Otherwise, he does not mind what he does. He also likes to go to the gym to keep in shape and to compensate for his love of good food, particularly Asian and Mediterranean.

Donata a graduate in dentistry, is an accomplished sportswoman. Whatever the sport, she loves to have a go and usually turns out to be excellent at it, as she is so competitive. This means she is careful about what she eats. Another passion of hers is to paint, especially architectural themes, which she finds relaxing after all her exertions.

B Information about the possible destinations:

Happiville

- a small city situated nearby, accessible by train then ferry
- has cutting edge modern architecture and is next to a tranquil lake
- offering very competitive rates with regard to accommodation, though only a limited range is available
- the choice of places to eat ranges from cheap cafés to expensive restaurants, tending to focus on local specialities
- home to an art gallery (headline-grabbing owing to its thought-provoking installations mixing art and music) and a rather dusty old museum
- sports facilities not up to normal city standards as the council invested heavily in new buildings such as the concert hall

Grandberg

- a large, bustling, multicultural city surrounded by lovely countryside, involving a five hour flight to reach it
- offering a full range of accommodation options to suit any pocket and every taste
- the choice of places to eat is endless, constantly evolving in response to the latest trends and covering all budgets
- home to several world-famous museums and art galleries, attracting over a million visitors a year to their frequently changing exhibitions
- plenty of opportunities to watch sporting events as well as to participate in a wide range of sporting activities

Longstad

- a beautiful city, with a medieval centre, situated near a sandy beach
- just a short journey away by budget airline
- offering expensive central accommodation as it is a tourist hotspot, but with cheaper options further out
- the choice of places to eat varies from local to vegetarian, Chinese to Greek, street food to fine dining
- home to a brand new, state-of-the art cultural centre built on the outskirts, and only just finished so that it is not that well known yet
- sports facilities are limited in the centre, but well catered for in the rest of the city, also famous for its international yacht race

C Additional information:

- 1 Budget airlines use airports situated well away from city centres
- 2 Joy has been given \$2500 to cover all expenses, while Donata has savings of \$1200 and Benni \$750
- 3 Donata feels overwhelmed by huge crowds, preferring quieter locations
- 4 Established national airline carriers fly direct to city locations
- 5 Cheap but trendy self-catering apartments have just appeared on the rental market in Happiville
- 6 Grandberg and Longstad both offer good value transport discounts and three-day long cultural passes to tourists
- 7 Donata is an accomplished cook who enjoys creating a wide range of healthy meals for her friends
- 8 Longstad's best fitness centre recently burnt to the ground and arson is suspected
- 9 Grandberg's internationally renowned concert hall is currently closed for a month to undergo a partial refurbishment
- 10 Joy does not travel well, suffering from sea sickness

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