

Fifth Year English First Language Exam

5ENA & 5ENB: Oddy and Sanger

Instructions to Candidates

The exam will last for 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Answer all the questions from Section A and one question from Section B.

Each section carries 50 marks.

Read all the questions carefully before you start to write.

Take note of the marks available for each question.

Remember that marks will be awarded for the quality of your language as well as for the content of your answers.

Return all answer papers and this paper at the end of the exam.

## Section A

Read the following passage and then answer the question set on it, *using you own words as far as possible*.

*Earlier in the novel we learn that Edwin, a young man in his early twenties, is rather nervous of hotels and waiters but he wishes to impress Janice when he takes her out for a meal.*

The hotel was beside Bassenthwaite Lake. Rather smaller than some of the lake-hotels, it had, to Edwin, that mellowed discretion of appearance which he recognised immediately and thought of as 'really good'. It stood in grounds of its own and in the daytime you could see the lake only a few paces away outside the window. In decor and habit it was rather old-fashioned; the food was plain and plentiful; 5 no piano distracted from the purpose of the place, which was eating. The furniture was oak, the carpets a little old, Persian and rich, the walls unobtrusively papered in warm patterns. Though it would never return to its former residential splendour, it was now enjoying a profitable Indian summer which, the owner hoped, might be spring in disguise. In summer it shuddered at the impact of coach-parties, welcomed them and took no harm. In winter it was a middle-aged treat or else a meeting place for enthusiasts 10 of Lakelandery.

Edwin was able to walk in confidently and was pleased to notice that though Janice had made no extravagant efforts on his behalf she was far and away the most attractive woman in the room. Eyes turned to her and he was proud to be her escort. Escort her he did, almost marching her to the table (in the corner, he was pleased to see), manoeuvring her chair into position and picking up the menu as if 15 about to study a battle order.

He wanted to tell her to order the most expensive thing they had, but desisted. He was pleased by the modesty of her choice because it underlined her good taste.

Whether or not to order a bottle of wine had been a serious problem. To be able to have it and enjoy it would, undoubtedly, be perfect, but he wondered how to order it without exposing his ignorance and 20 how to enjoy it without encountering awkwardness. Previously he had strained his ears to catch the tone in which wine was ordered; he had the inflection but the pronunciation would certainly defeat him. Then there was tasting it—that could only be a farce. He had decided against it.

'We could have some wine to drink if you want,' he said.

'No thank you,' Janice replied. 'It makes me sleepy. But you have some if you want.'

25 'Have some beer, sir,' said the waiter, who knew he was at liberty to enter the conversation at any sentence he chose. 'It'll go a lot better with what you've ordered—and to tell you the truth, I think these wines are just a lot of show. Beer's what the normal English person drinks.'

'Oh, I'd love beer,' said Janice. 'Half a pint, please.'

30 'And you'll have a pint, sir? Good. I'll tell you, you won't get a clearer bitter anywhere around here. Mad on his beer, Mr. Rawlinson is. We've got some pewter tankards we use for Rotary Clubs and suchlike functions—I'll bring it in those—it looks very nice in the pewter.'

Edwin was pleased with all that.

After a fine mulligatawny soup they had lamb cutlets with vegetables and potatoes and then the Chef's Mousse.

35 'Go on,' said the waiter to Edwin, 'spoil yourself. Have another. There's a few left downstairs and they'll just go to waste. You know, I think this man's mousse is worth more than any dessert I've had outside the really big places. Would you like another?'

'Yes,' Edwin replied, so much was he now at his ease, 'I would.'

'And madam? Would you like one, love?'

40 'No thank you.'

'I won't press. The ladies have their figures to think about—not like us men, eh sir? Right. Another mousse is on its way. Pronto.'

They chatted so unforcedly that Edwin even allowed himself to tip his chair back slightly—and more, recognize that it might be bad manners and have confidence enough to ignore the threat to etiquette.

45 Janice dallied over the coffee but eventually they left, Edwin leaving a generous tip and receiving a pantomime wink from the waiter.

*Without a City Wall, Melvyn Bragg (1988)*

1. Explain, 'Though it would never return . . . spring in disguise (lines 6-8). 2 marks
  
2. Suggest single words or phrases similar in meaning to **four** of the following words, *as they are used in the passage*:  
décor (line 4); unobtrusively (line 6); manoeuvring (line 14); desisted (line 16);  
underlined (line 17); farce (line 22); dallied (line 45). 4 marks
  
3. Give what you consider to be the meaning of any **three** of the following expressions, *as they are used in the passage*:  
'that mellowed discretion of appearance' (line 2);  
'a middle-aged treat' (line 9);  
'no extravagant efforts' (lines 11-12);  
'the modesty of her choice' (lines 16-17);  
'the threat to etiquette' (line 44);  
'a pantomime wink' (line 46). 6 marks
  
4. In what ways are we made aware of Edwin's nervousness? 4 marks
  
5. What do we learn about Janice? 4 marks
  
6. Say why you do or do not feel that the waiter's interest was genuinely sympathetic. 5 marks
  
7. Using details from the passage, write a detailed recommendation (about 100 words) of the hotel suitable for a holiday brochure. 10 marks
  
8. Imagine the conversation Edwin has with his parents later that evening about the meal with Janice. Write about 150 words 15 marks

**Total – 50 marks**

## **Section B**

Write between 500 and 700 words on ONE of the following:

**Either**

1. The Thrill of a Lifetime.

**Or**

2. What is your opinion of professional sports today? You may like to consider such issues as performers' salaries; the use of performance-enhancing drugs; crowd control; media coverage.

**Or**

3. Write a speech for or against **one** of the following motions:
  - i) The break-up of the European Union should be encouraged.
  - ii) Stricter censorship of television and the internet is necessary.
  - iii) The greatest enemy of the Earth's wildlife is man.

**50 marks**