



BRANCHE	SECTION	ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE
Anglais Textes inconnus	A	<i>Durée de l'épreuve : 2 heures</i> <i>Date de l'épreuve : 21 mai 2019</i>

The Darkling Thrush (1900)

by Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)

I leant upon a coppice gate
 When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
 The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
 Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
 Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
 The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
 The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
 Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
 Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
 The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
 Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
 In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
 Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
 Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
 Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
 His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
 And I was unaware.

Glossary:

thrush: 1. songbird, Drossel (G), grive (F) 2. dregs : undesirable parts 3. canopy: roof-like covering

TEXT ANALYSIS

1. Find examples of word choice and imagery and show how they contribute to the atmosphere in the first two stanzas. (12)
2. Show that the structure of the poem, its rhyme, metre and rhythm reflect the tone in the poem. (8)
3. Describe the speaker's shift in mood by closely referring to the diction used in the last two stanzas. (12)
4. Which Romantic notions can you find in the poem? (8)
5. Why, do you think, was "The Darkling Thrush" originally called "The Century's End, 1900"? (6)

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

6. Discuss and give your opinion on the meaning of the following proverb: 'Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly'. (14)