

**LIRA TOWN COLLEGE**  
**P.O BOX 125**  
**S.6 MID TERM MARCH 2011**  
**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH 301/2**

**INSTRUCTION**

**Read the extract below carefully and answer the questions that come after it.**

**T.S ELIOT: MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL**

**PRIEST (severally)**

My Lord, you must not stop here. To the minister. Through the cloister. No time to waste.

They are coming back, armed, To the alter, to the alter.

**THOMAS**

All my life they have been coming, these feet. All my life I have waited, Death will come only when I am worthy.

And if I am worthy, there is no danger.

I have therefore only to make perfect my will.

**PRIEST**

My Lord they are coming. They will break through presently.

You will be killed. Come to the alter.

Make haste, my Lord. Don't stop here talking. It is not right.

What shall become of us, my Lord, if you are killed; what shall become of us?

**THOMAS**

Peace! Be quiet! Remember where you are, and what is happening;

No life here is sought for but mine,

And I am not in danger: only near to death.

**PRIEST**

My Lord, to vespers! You must not be absent fro vespers.

You must not be absent from the derive office. To vespers. In to the cathedral!

**THOMAS**

Go to vespers; remember meet at your prayers.

They shall find the Shepard here, the flock shall be spared.

I have heard a tremor of bliss, a wink of heaven, a whisper,

And I would no longer be denied; all things

Proceed to a peaceful consummation.

**PRIEST**

Seize him! Force him!

Keep your hands off!

- (a) Briefly give the context of this passage.
- (b) Describe the priests' emotions and how they are portrayed in this passage.
- (c) Describe the likely reactions of the evidence on seeing this scene. Give reasons to support your answer.

