

2005 English

Intermediate 2 – Close Reading

Finalised Marking Instructions

These Marking Instructions have been prepared by Examination Teams for use by SQA Appointed Markers when marking External Course Assessments.

English - Intermediate 2
Close Reading

1. Look at lines 1-8.

- (a) Quote **two** expressions which make hillwalking sound a rather unpleasant and uncomfortable activity.

2A

Two from:

'gasping for air'/'some interminable mountain slope'/'seems to get steeper at every step'/'trembling'/'disintegrating rock ledge'/'a scrap of cairn'/'some windswept ridge'/'blizzard/howls'/'morass'/'sodden peat'/'huddled'

- (b) Quote the **word** which the writer uses to suggest that sometimes the summit seems beyond reach.

1A

'elusive' (1)

2. "It occurs to all of us at one time or another." (line 1)

From your reading of the whole paragraph explain what "It" is.

1A

'It' is the question 'why am I doing this?' (1) (Accept gloss)

3. In lines 9-16 the writer reflects on his need to climb mountains.

By referring to **one** example of each, show how he demonstrates this need through:

- (a) word choice
(b) sentence structure.

2A

2A

Word Choice:

'compulsion' (1) – conveys the strength of his drive to climb (1)

or

'outlandish' (1) – recognition that it seems mad to go back time after time but he does (1)

or

'breathless/bruised/battered/bedraggled' (1) – reference to alliteration plus comment (1) or comment on the cumulative effect of the words (1) or reference to the physical discomfort he may suffer but he is so driven that he still goes back (1)

Sentence structure:

Use of (three) questions (1) – (the repeated questioning) shows his struggle to find an answer (1)

or

Use of the list (1) – emphasises the discomforts but he still goes back (1)

4. Read lines 17-27 again.

In your own words, give the **two** reasons the writer uses to explain people's desire to climb hills. Quote briefly to support each reason.

4U

- *It is a natural instinct (1); 'an ancient animal drive' (1)*
- *It provides adults with release (of childish fun) (1); 'the Great Outdoors is a giant funhouse' OR 'we can cast off adult worries and become carefree kids again' OR 'have no-one give disapproving looks' (1)*

5. Explain how the sentence "Yet there must be more to ... it ceases to be fun?" (lines 28-29) performs a linking function.

2A

'a desire to have fun' refers back to the idea of childish fun as discussed in the previous paragraph (1) and 'there must be more to it' or 'when it ceases to be fun' introduces the idea which he discusses in the rest of the paragraph OR the sentence is in the form of a question which the rest of the paragraph answers (1). A sensible comment on the function of the word 'Yet' = 1.

6. Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the **three** reasons the writer gives in lines 31-35 for returning to the hills despite all the obvious discomforts.

3U

- *Sense of achievement/fulfilment (1) (gloss of 'glow of satisfaction')*
- *The fitness achieved (1) (gloss of 'muscles that don't ache/lungs that don't wheeze')*
- *Natural exhilaration/pleasure that comes from exercise (1) (gloss of 'endorphins that buzz round your head' or 'keep you feeling high').*

7. Look at lines 36-40.

What is the writer's attitude towards those who do not appreciate hillwalking? Justify your answer by **two** close references to the text.

3U/A

Attitude – critical/sardonic/contemptuous/doesn't think much of them etc (1). Answers should recognise his negative attitude.

Appropriate references to: 'brains have become as useless as their legs' – 'banging your head against a brick wall'/'perhaps equating effort with pain'/'laziness'/'do not appear to be able to appreciate'/'such people' (Any two)

Reference alone = 0

8. What is suggested by the comment about Naismith that "the ground hasn't seen the imprint of his boots for some time now"? (lines 45-46)

1U

That he has retired/he no longer climbs hills/he is dead (1)

9. In lines 55-60, the writer begins two sentences with “Perhaps”.
- (a) How does this word link with the previous paragraph (lines 50-54)? **1A**
- (b) What effect does it have on the tone of this paragraph (lines 55-60)? **1A**

It introduces answers to the questions posed by the writer (1)

Questioning/reflection/speculation/pondering/exploring (1)

10. Look again at the sentence “In Victorian times people took to the seaside to escape the dark satanic mills; now it is the countryside that beckons.” (lines 61-62) **2A**

Identify and give an example of **one** technique the writer uses to achieve the effect of balance or contrast.

Imagery/Word choice (1) + reference to contrast/balance eg Victorian and now or seaside and country (1) or escape and beckons (1)

Or

Sentence structure (1) – use of the semi-colon to balance the two parts of the sentence (1)

11. In the final paragraph (lines 61-72), the writer describes how it is not new for people to be “desperate to get away”. With reference to **one** example explain fully, in your own words, how he illustrates this point. **2U**

I mark for reference to Victorian era or 1930s

I mark for explanation ie gloss on ‘dark satanic mills’ or ‘depressed thirties’

12. “Without these I wither away like a plant without light.” (line 72) **3E**

Comment on the effectiveness of this sentence as a conclusion to the whole passage.

Understanding of image in relation to content (1)/intensity of personal need (1)/relationship to the initial question in the title – Why? (1)/brevity effective as a conclusion (1)

Total 30 marks

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]