

# X270/11/02

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NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
2012

WEDNESDAY, 16 MAY  
2.20 PM – 3.50 PM

ENGLISH  
INTERMEDIATE 2  
Critical Essay

Answer **two** questions.

Each question must be taken from a different section.

Each question is worth 25 marks.



Answer TWO questions from this paper.

Each question must be chosen from a different Section (A–E). You are not allowed to choose two questions from the same Section.

In all Sections you may use Scottish texts.

Write the number of each question in the margin of your answer booklet and begin each essay on a fresh page.

You should spend about 45 minutes on each essay.

The following will be assessed:

- the relevance of your essays to the questions you have chosen
- your knowledge and understanding of key elements, central concerns and significant details of the chosen texts
- your explanation of ways in which aspects of structure/style/language contribute to the meaning/effect/impact of the chosen texts
- your evaluation of the effectiveness of the chosen texts, supported by detailed and relevant evidence
- the quality and technical accuracy of your writing.

Each question is worth 25 marks. The total for this paper is 50 marks.

## SECTION A—DRAMA

*Answers to questions in this section should refer to the text and to such relevant features as: characterisation, key scene(s), structure, climax, theme, plot, conflict, setting . . .*

1. Choose a play in which there is conflict between two characters in a family **or** a group.  
Show how the conflict occurs and explain how it affects the characters and the events of the play.
2. Choose a play in which a main character's actions have a significant effect on the rest of the play.  
Show how this character's actions have affected the other characters **and/or** the outcome of the play.
3. Choose a play which has developed your understanding of an important human emotion such as love, hatred, jealousy **or** any other emotion.  
Show how this understanding has been developed through the playwright's use of dramatic techniques.

## SECTION B—PROSE

*Answers to questions in this section should refer to the text and to such relevant features as: characterisation, setting, language, key incident(s), climax, turning point, plot, structure, narrative technique, theme, ideas, description . . .*

4. Choose a novel **or** a short story where there is an incident which is a turning point crucial to the fate of the main character.

Briefly describe what happens at this point and go on to explain why this is crucial to the fate of a main character.

5. Choose a novel **or** a short story in which setting in place **and/or** time is an important feature.

Briefly describe the setting(s) and explain the importance of this feature to the story.

6. Choose a novel **or** a short story **or** a non-fiction text **or** group of texts which deals with an important human issue (such as the abuse of power, conflict between good and evil, loss of freedom or hatred between individuals or groups).

Show how the author reveals the issue through the portrayal of people and events throughout the text, and show how your understanding of the issue has deepened.

## SECTION C—POETRY

*Answers to questions in this section should refer to the text and to such relevant features as: word choice, tone, imagery, structure, content, rhythm, theme, sound, ideas . . .*

7. Choose a poem which describes a person's experience.

Explain how the poetic techniques used to describe the experience make the poem more interesting.

8. Choose a poem which arouses strong emotion in you.

Describe how you feel about the poem, and explain how the poet leads you to feel this way.

9. Choose a poem in which the poet creates a particular mood **or** atmosphere.

Show how the poet creates this mood **or** atmosphere by his or her choice of subject matter and use of poetic techniques.

[Turn over

## SECTION D—FILM AND TV DRAMA

*Answers to questions in this section should refer to the text and to such relevant features as: use of camera, key sequence, characterisation, mise-en-scène, editing, setting, music/sound, special effects, plot, dialogue . . .*

10. Choose a film **or** TV drama\* in which the main character is an individual for whom we feel sympathy.

Show how media techniques are used to portray the character in such a way that we feel sympathy.

11. Choose a scene or sequence from a film **or** TV drama\* which is particularly dramatic.

Describe what happens in the scene or sequence, explaining how the film or programme makers effectively use techniques to create drama.

12. Choose a film **or** TV drama\* in which there is a character who poses a threat to the main character.

Show how media techniques are used to portray the character in such a way that the audience reacts against him/her and sees the threat which he/she poses.

\* “TV drama” includes a single play, a series or a serial.

## SECTION E—LANGUAGE

*Answers to questions in this section should refer to the text and to such relevant features as: register, accent, dialect, slang, jargon, vocabulary, tone, abbreviation . . .*

13. Consider the language of advertisements aimed at young people.

By discussing at least one such advertisement, identify the key features which vary from other types of advertising and explain why these features could appeal to young people.

14. Consider the language specific to a group with a shared hobby, job, interest **or** location.

By giving examples of distinctive vocabulary **or** grammatical constructions, show how the group’s language is different from that used by the general population and discuss the advantages to the group of using its specific language.

15. Consider the differences between written language and an aspect of spoken language which you have studied.

Explain, with references to examples, the similarities and differences between the two forms of language you have studied and go on to show which features of spoken language you find most effective.

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]