

X115/202

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2010

THURSDAY, 13 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 a central character feels increasingly isolated from those around her or him.

Explain why the character finds herself or himself isolated, and show what the consequences are for the character concerned.

2. Choose a scene from a play in which there is an important incident which leads to a turning point in the action.

Explain what happens in the scene, and then go on to say how it affects the outcome of the play.

3. Choose a play in which one of the main concerns is love **or** jealousy **or** betrayal **or** reconciliation.

Explain what the concern is, and show how it is explored throughout the play.

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 which gives you an insight into an aspect of human nature or behaviour.

State what the aspect is, and show how the characters' actions and relationships lead you to a deeper understanding of human nature or behaviour.

5. Choose a novel **or** a short story with an ending which you find satisfactory.

By looking at the novel or short story as a whole, explain why you find the ending satisfactory in bringing to a conclusion the main concerns of the text.

6. Choose a prose work (fiction **or** non-fiction) in which setting is an important feature.

Explain how the writer creates the setting, and then go on to show how this feature contributes to your understanding of the text as a whole.

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 could be considered as having a powerful message.

Show how the poet effectively conveys this message through his or her use of poetic techniques.

8. 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.

9. Choose a poem which portrays an interesting character.

Show how the poet uses poetic techniques to make the character interesting.

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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* which deals with issues which mainly affect young people. Explain how the film or TV drama* deals with such issues, stating whether or not you find the portrayal of these issues realistic.

11. Choose a scene or sequence from a film or TV drama* which provides a climax to the action.

Briefly describe the events leading up to the climax, and then explain how the techniques used by the film or programme makers create a heightened sense of importance in this scene or sequence.

12. Choose a film which you think is typical of its genre, for example: action, romance, comedy, horror . . .

Explain how the film makers have used the features of the genre to create a successful film.

* “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 a text which you find to be persuasive, for example: an advertisement, a speech, a newspaper article . . .

By referring to specific examples from your chosen text, show how persuasive techniques have been used to convince you.

14. Consider the ways that young people use the internet to communicate and socialise, for example: networking sites, instant messaging, chat rooms, blogs . . .

By referring to specific examples of language and vocabulary, explain how such communication differs from formal English, and what its attractions are for young people.

15. Consider the specialist language used by any group which has a common leisure, vocational or geographical connection.

Show how the specialist language used by the group is effective in communicating shared interests accurately.

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]