

X115/202

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2007

FRIDAY, 11 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 which portrays a strong relationship between two of the main characters. Describe the nature of the relationship and explain how the relationship influences the fate of the two characters concerned.
2. Choose a play in which there is a highly emotional scene. Show how this scene increases your understanding of the characters involved and how it is important in the unfolding of the plot of the play.
3. Choose a play which has, as a central concern, an issue which is of importance in today's society. State what the issue is and show how the playwright's handling of the plot and characters increases your understanding of the issue.

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** short story in which **two** of the main characters have a disagreement which is important to the outcome of the novel or short story.
Identify the reasons for the disagreement and go on to show how the effects of the disagreement have an impact on the rest of the novel or short story.
5. Choose a prose text (fiction or non-fiction) in which a society **or** a person **or** a culture **or** a setting is effectively portrayed.
Show how the writer's presentation of the subject makes an impact on you, and helps you to understand the subject in greater depth.
6. Choose a novel **or** short story which has a striking opening.
Show how the opening is effective in introducing the character(s) **and/or** the atmosphere **and/or** the setting.

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 seems to be about an ordinary everyday experience but which actually makes a deeper comment about life.
Explain what the poem is about and go on to show how the techniques used by the poet help to make the ideas memorable.
8. Choose a poem which creates pity or sympathy in you.
Show how the feelings of pity or sympathy are brought into focus by the use of poetic techniques.
9. Choose a poem which describes a scene or incident vividly.
Briefly state what is being described and then go on to show how the poetic techniques used make the description vivid.

[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 effects, plot, dialogue . . .

10. Choose a film or TV drama* which creates suspense or tension either in a particular scene **or** throughout the whole film or TV drama.

Show how the suspense or tension is created and how it affects your enjoyment of the film or TV drama* as a whole.

11. Choose a film or TV drama* which deals with crime **or** espionage **or** detection.

Show how the film or TV drama* captures and holds your interest by its choice of content and use of media techniques.

12. Choose a film or TV drama* which depends to some extent on humour to make an impact.

Briefly state what you consider to be the humorous aspects of the film or TV drama* and go on to show how the film or programme makers use various techniques to create the humour.

* “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 aspects of language which make advertising effective.

Choose two advertisements which you feel vary in their effectiveness. By looking closely at each advertisement explain why you felt that one was more effective than the other.

14. Consider the language of two groups of people who are different in some significant way. For example, they may be from different generations or different places.

By looking at examples of the language of each group, describe the differences between the two, and discuss the advantages **and/or** disadvantages which might arise from the different ways of using language.

15. Consider a modern means of communication such as e-mailing or text-messaging.

By referring to specific examples show what are the advantages and disadvantages of the method of communication which you have chosen.

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]