



2008 English

Intermediate 2 – Close Reading

Finalised Marking Instructions

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2008

The information in this publication may be reproduced to support SQA qualifications only on a non-commercial basis. If it is to be used for any other purposes written permission must be obtained from the Assessment Materials Team, Dalkeith.

Where the publication includes materials from sources other than SQA (secondary copyright), this material should only be reproduced for the purposes of examination or assessment. If it needs to be reproduced for any other purpose it is the centre's responsibility to obtain the necessary copyright clearance. SQA's Assessment Materials Team at Dalkeith may be able to direct you to the secondary sources.

These Marking Instructions have been prepared by Examination Teams for use by SQA Appointed Markers when marking External Course Assessments. This publication must not be reproduced for commercial or trade purposes.

English – Intermediate 2
Close Reading
Marking Key

1. What is surprising about the writer’s **word choice** in the first sentence? **2 A**
There is a contradiction (1) in “hellish yet beautiful” (1)
2. Why does the writer add the expression “we suppose” (line 3) to the sentence here? **1 U**
He is not/cannot be sure
3. The word “floes” (line 6) usually refers to icebergs.
Explain why it is appropriate to use it as a metaphor to refer to the appearance of the rock salt deposits. **2 A/E**
Similarity in size OR colour OR shape OR contrast with surroundings
Any two, (1) each
4. Explain why any **one** example of the writer’s choice of descriptive detail in lines 10 – 12 emphasises the hardships of the journey. **1 A**
The camels drink only twice – we would expect more
Walking at night – implies the heat of the day
The camels have to carry their own fodder – an additional burden
Straw to eat – not nutritious
Dry bread/“only...bread, sugar and tea” – unappetising/unvaried//limited range and/or not nutritious
Reference alone = 0
5. Explain **in your own words** the contrasting impressions the writer has of the village in Hamed Ela (see lines 18 – 19). **2 U**
gloss of “friendly” eg welcoming/helpful/hospitable/kindly/nice
gloss of “flyblown” eg rickety/flimsy/ramshackle/makeshift/uncomfortable/physically inhospitable/unhygienic/poor
1 mark for each successful paraphrase of one side of the contrast
6. Explain what the word “fumed” (line 22) suggests about the volcano, apart from having smoke coming from it. **1 U**
Idea of personification – eg that it was angry/threatening/bad-tempered

7. Explain why the sentence “And that is where Solomon was wrong” (line 30) is an effective link between the paragraphs contained in lines 26 to 35. **2 E**

“(And) that” refers back to his words in the previous paragraph (about progress/growth/improvement) (1)

“was wrong” leads to (the rebuttal contained in) the rest of the paragraph (1)

less well explained/less selective = 1

Comment on linking function of “And” = 1

8. What does the word “drift” suggest about how “the Afar will leave their desert home” (lines 30 – 31)? **1 U**

It will happen piecemeal/gradually/without purpose or direction or motive on the part of those who do it.

9. The writer tells us “There is no modern reason for human beings to live in such places” (line 36).

Explain **in your own words two** reasons why this is the case.

Look in the next three sentences (lines 36 – 39) for your answer. **2 U**

Glosses of two from

their produce is pitiful

eg what they turn out is minimal;

the climate (is) brutal

eg the weather is oppressive;

the distances (are) immense

eg they have to travel a very long way;

Salt is already produced as cheaply by industrial means

eg salt can be obtained equally, efficiently in other ways;

Market forces [will] kill the trade

eg economic factors will overcome them;

the conscience of the animal rights movement

eg people concerned with animal welfare will act against them

10. Explain fully the appropriateness of the **word choice** of “rubbernecking tourists in helicopters” (line 41). **2 A**

<i>rubbernecking</i>	<i>suggests insensitivity/ghoulishness</i>
<i>tourists</i>	<i>suggests invasiveness/superficiality</i>
<i>helicopters</i>	<i>suggests intrusive modernity OR detachment OR (financial) contrast</i>

Any two, 1 mark for each valid comment.

11. Explain how the writer develops the idea of Las Vegas being “Unreal” (line 44). **2 A**

<i>“sprung up” (1)</i>	<i>suggests an unnatural speed of growth (1)</i>
<i>“air-conditioned” (1)</i>	<i>illustrates the necessity of climate alteration/modification/control (1)</i>
<i>“artificially” (1)</i>	<i>relates to the idea of falseness (1)</i>
<i>artificially irrigated (1)</i>	<i>illustrates the innate dryness/hostility/uninhabitable quality of the place (1)</i>
<i>“bubble” (1)</i>	<i>suggests its fragility/quality of being insulated from elsewhere (1)</i>

Any one example and comment.

12. Explain why the expression “watching it on the Discovery Channel” (line 50) effectively illustrates our relationship with “wilderness places”. **2 E**

Just as seeing something on TV is removed from reality/involvement (idea of vicariousness) (1)
So we are separated from/are removed from/are at a distance from/do not belong to these places (idea of lack of interaction) (1)

13. What is the effect of the writer’s inclusion of the words “Those who call themselves” in the sentence beginning in line 51? **1 U**

Suggests disagreement/cynicism

14. What is the **tone** of the two sentences in lines 52 – 55? **1 A**

Sad/pessimistic/gloomy/resigned/regretful/concerned

15. Explain how other words in lines 56 – 58 help us to work out the meaning or sense of “gruesome desert life”. **2 U**

If they are “away from” (pleasant things such as) clean houses/running water/power/schools/adjacent clinic (1)

Then the expression must mean a harsh/spartan/unpleasant/horrible/ghastly existence (1)

16. Look at lines 60 – 67.

- (a) Identify any feature of **sentence structure** the writer uses effectively in this paragraph. **1 A**

Use of parenthesis

OR use of semi-colon

OR repeated use of (clauses starting with) “as” listing

OR use of (negative) question(s)

Any one (1)

- (b) Show how your chosen feature helps to clarify or support the writer’s argument. **2 A**

Feature

Effect

Use of parenthesis

Helps identify/isolate/specify (1) what the “new way of living” is (1)

Semi-colon construction

OR use of “as”

OR listing

Gives idea of multiplicity and/or variety of ways (1)

we are moving away from wilderness (1)

Use of (negative) question(s)

Creates doubt in reader’s mind (1)

And/or questions wisdom of what we are doing (1)

And/or implies agreement with sense of argument (1)

*Any **two** effects*

NB marks in (b) are for analysis, not for identification of feature.

17. Explain **in your own words** why “the nomads are on a path to extinction as a culture” (line 70). 1 U

Their way of life does not (readily)/conform to (modern) rules and/or boundaries (idea of imposition and/or constriction).

(gloss of “does not fit the pattern of nation states, taxes, frontiers and controls”)

18. Explain any reason why the final paragraph (lines 78 – 79) works well as a conclusion to the passage. 2 E

Idea of garden of Eden (1) recaps idea of magnificence of place (1)

Idea of expulsion (1) recaps idea of man’s desertion of this place (1)

“of our own accord” (1) recaps idea of the leaving being by choice (1)

“closing the gate behind us” (1) recaps idea of irreversibility of process OR the references to the gates of nature reserves (1)

OR contains an appropriate idea of closure OR retreating from Nature (1)

Use of imagery (1) matches use of imagery elsewhere (identified) (1)

Melancholy tone (1) matches sombre tone of passage (1)

The balance of “In the beginning...” and “In the end...” is neat per se (1)

The balance of “expelled” and “leave it of our own accord” is neat per se (1)

Any one feature (1) and comment (1).

Accept ‘sum up’ = ‘recap’

[U = 11; A = 11; A/E = 2; E = 6]

Total 30 Marks

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]