

X270/12/01

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2012

THURSDAY, 17 MAY
9.00 AM – 10.45 AM

ENGLISH
HIGHER
Close Reading—Questions

Answer all questions.

50 marks are allocated to this paper.

A code letter (U, A, E) is used alongside each question to give some indication of the skills being assessed. The number of marks attached to each question will give some indication of the length of answer required.

When answering questions coded “U—Understanding”, use your own words as far as is reasonably possible and do not simply repeat the wording of the passage.



Questions on Passage 1

Marks Code

*You are reminded of the instruction on the front cover:
When answering questions coded “U—Understanding”, use your own words as far as is reasonably possible and do not simply repeat the wording of the passage.*

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Read lines 1–6. | | |
| (a) Give any two reasons why, according to the writer, people watch sport. | 2 | U |
| (b) Show how the sentence structure in this paragraph suggests the difficulty of answering “the question everyone asks” him about sport. | 2 | A |
| 2. Show how the writer’s use of language in lines 7–12 clarifies his definition of “big sporting events”. | 2 | A |
| 3. Referring to lines 13–19, explain the writer’s “revelation” (line 13). | 2 | U |
| 4. Show how the writer’s use of language in lines 20–28 highlights the scale of the media operation at the Sydney Olympic Games.

In your answer you should refer to such features as sentence structure, word choice, imagery . . . | 4 | A |
| 5. Explain why, according to lines 29–34, few people in Britain realise the true scale of the Olympic Games. | 2 | U |
| 6. Read lines 35–40.

Explain how the writer’s reference to curling helps to clarify his main point in this paragraph. | 2 | U |
| 7. Show how the writer’s use of language in lines 41–46 conveys the extreme pressure on competitors in the Olympic Games. | 2 | A |
| 8. Show how the writer’s use of language in lines 47–56 emphasises his belief that the Olympic Games is more significant than any other sporting event.

In your answer you should refer to such features as imagery, word choice, contrast, sentence structure . . . | 4 | A |

(22)

Questions on Passage 2

Marks Code

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9. (a) Give any **two** reasons from lines 1–9 why “the Greeks are so proud of staging the 2004 Olympics” (line 2). 2 U
- (b) Show how the writer’s use of language in lines 5–9 conveys his negative view of the Olympic Games. 2 A
10. Read lines 10–21.
- (a) Why do some people believe that there is “a duty to believe in the Olympics” (line 11)? 2 U
- (b) Explain why the writer finds the drug-cheating of Jovano Gonzalez particularly difficult to comprehend. 2 U
- (c) Show how the writer’s use of language in lines 10–21 emphasises his feelings about drug cheats.
In your answer you should refer to such features as tone, sentence structure, imagery, word choice . . . 4 A
11. Read lines 22–28.
- (a) Explain why, according to the writer, competitors choose to take drugs. 1 U
- (b) Show how the writer’s mood of disillusionment is conveyed by his word choice in these lines. 2 A
12. Read lines 29–44.
- (a) Referring to specific words and/or phrases, show how the sentence “But nowadays . . . false.” (lines 35–36) performs a linking function in the writer’s argument. 2 U
- (b) Why, according to lines 35–44, was Ben Johnson’s cheating so significant? 2 U
- (c) Show how the writer’s word choice in lines 38–44 (“He took us . . . caught.”) creates a powerful contrast between Johnson in triumph and Johnson in disgrace. 2 A
13. How effective do you find the final paragraph (lines 45–49) as a conclusion to the writer’s exploration of the “Olympic lie” in the passage as a whole? You may refer in your answer to ideas or to language or to both. 2 E
- (23)**

[Turn over for Question 14 on Page four

Question on both Passages

Marks Code

- 14.** Consider the attitude displayed by each writer towards the Olympic Games. Identify key areas of agreement and disagreement in their points of view. You should support your answer by referring to important ideas in the passages.

You may present your answer to this question in continuous prose or in a series of developed bullet points.

5 U/E

(5)

Total (50)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]