

# X270/11/02

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NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
2014

WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL  
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 explores a relationship between the members of one family.  
Describe the relationship and go on to show how this relationship affects the outcome of the play.
2. Choose a play which deals with an issue of importance to society.  
State what the issue is and go on to show how the writer increases your understanding of the issue.
3. Choose a play in which one of the characters has to overcome a difficulty.  
Briefly state what the difficulty is and go on to show to what extent the character is successful in dealing with the difficulty.

## 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 has an incident involving tension.

Describe briefly what happens at this point in the story and go on to show how it is important to the outcome of the story as a whole.

5. Choose a novel **or** a short story which deals with a powerful human emotion such as: love, hatred, jealousy, despair, etc . . .

Show how the powerful emotion affects **at least one** of the characters and go on to show how it affects the outcome of the story.

6. Choose a prose work (fiction **or** non-fiction) which deals with a serious aspect of life.

State what this serious aspect is and go on to show how the writer deepens your understanding of it.

## 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 actually makes an important point about life.

Briefly state what experience is being described and go on to show how the writer makes the important point about life.

8. Choose a poem which deals with nature or the natural world.

Briefly state what is being described and go on to show how the use of poetic techniques deepens your understanding of the topic.

9. Choose a poem which could be considered as having a powerful message.

State what the message is and go on to show how the poet conveys this message through the 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\* which involves conflict between two groups of people.  
Explain the reasons for the conflict and go on to show how the conflict is important to the rest of the film **or** TV drama.
- 11.** Choose a scene or sequence from a film **or** TV drama\* in which an atmosphere of suspense or tension or horror is created.  
Describe what happens in the scene or sequence, and explain how the techniques used by the film or programme makers create this atmosphere.
- 12.** Choose a film **or** TV drama\* which depends on humour to make its impact.  
Briefly state what you consider to be the humorous aspects of the film or TV drama and go on to show how techniques are used to convey 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 language used by two groups of people who are significantly different from each other.  
By looking at examples of the language used by each group, describe the main differences between the two and explain which group’s language you found most effective.
- 14.** Consider the language used in advertisements.  
Choose **two** advertisements promoting equivalent products and explain the features of the more successful advertisement in persuading you to buy the product.
- 15.** Consider **one** modern way of communicating such as through e-mailing or texting.  
Explain what the key features of the language are and go on to explain the differences between this form of communication and an older form such as letter writing.

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]