

X270/11/02

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2015

THURSDAY, 14 MAY
10.20 AM – 11.50 AM

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 where there is conflict between two important characters.

Show how the conflict arises and go on to explain to what extent the conflict is resolved by the end of the play.

2. Choose a play with a strong theme.

State what the strong theme is and go on to show how the writer explores this theme throughout the course of the action.

3. Choose a play which has an important scene which acts as a turning point in the events of the play.

Give a brief account of the scene and go on to show why it is important in the play as a whole.

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 a character who has to struggle with difficulties.

Describe what these difficulties are and go on to explain how the character tries to deal with these difficulties.

5. Choose a novel **or** a short story which has a character who provokes a strong reaction in you.

Describe how you feel about this character and show how the writer leads you to feel so strongly about the character.

6. Choose a prose work (fiction **or** non-fiction) which presents you with an interesting place or topic.

Briefly identify the place or topic and go on to show how the writer makes it interesting for you.

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 describes an interesting character.

Briefly describe the character and go on to show how the poet uses poetic techniques to make the character interesting.

8. Choose a poem in which the poet creates a particular mood or atmosphere.

Briefly describe this mood **or** atmosphere and go on to show how the poet uses poetic techniques to make the mood **or** atmosphere clear.

9. Choose a poem which deals with a topic **or** event which makes the reader think.

Explain what the topic **or** event is and go on to show how poetic techniques help to provoke thought in the reader.

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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 has an effective opening sequence.
Briefly describe the opening sequence and go on to show how the techniques used by the film or programme makers create this effect.
- 11.** Choose a film **or** TV drama* in which setting is important to the success of the film or TV drama.
Explain how the setting is established and go on to show how the setting is important to the success of the film **or** TV drama.
- 12.** Choose a film **or** TV drama* which deals with the subject of “good versus evil.”
Describe the situation explored in the film **or** TV drama and go on to show to what extent the conflict between good and evil is resolved.

* “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 young people to communicate in text messages, on the internet or in any other way using an electronic device.
How does the language they use differ from formal written English and what features of this language are most likely to appeal to young people?
- 14.** Consider the language used in two advertisements.
Discuss the key language features used and explain the effectiveness of the persuasive language used in each advertisement.
- 15.** Consider some aspects of current vocabulary which are partially or wholly derived from another language.
Explain the source of your chosen examples and go on to show how and why they are used in today’s world.

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]