



X824/75/12

English
Critical Reading

THURSDAY, 9 MAY

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Candidates should enter their surname, forename(s), date of birth, Scottish candidate number and the name and Level of the subject at the top of their first answer sheet.

Total marks — 40

SECTION 1 — Scottish Text — 20 marks

Read an extract from a Scottish text you have previously studied.

Note: for Section 1 — Scottish Text only Part C, Text 4 — Poetry is provided in this paper.

Attempt ALL the questions for this text.

SECTION 2 — Critical Essay — 20 marks

Attempt ONE question from the following genre — Prose

Note: for Section 2 only Prose is provided in this paper.

Write your answers clearly on the answer sheet provided. On your answer sheet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Marks are shown in square brackets at the end of each question or part question.

An OW in the margin indicates a new question.

SECTION 1 — SCOTTISH TEXT — 20 marks

PART C — SCOTTISH TEXT — POETRY

Text 4 — Poetry

Read the extract below and then attempt the following questions.

My Grandmother's Houses by Jackie Kay

This extract is from sections 2 and 3 of the poem. In the first part of the poem, the poet has described her Grandmother's earlier tenement home and has fondly remembered childhood visits there as well as explaining her Grandmother's forced move to a 'high rise'.

Section 2

But she still doesn't settle down;
even at 70 she cleans people's houses
for ten bob and goes to church on Sundays,
dragging me along to the strange place where the air
is trapped and ghosts sit at the altar.
My parents do not believe. It is down to her.
A couple of prayers. A hymn or two.
Threepenny bit in the collection hat.
A flock of women in coats and fussy hats
flapping over me like missionaries, and that is that,
until the next time God grabs me in Glasgow with Gran.

Section 3

By the time I am seven we are almost the same height.
She still walks faster, rushing me down the High Street
till we get to her cleaning house. The hall is huge.
Rooms lead off like an octopus's arms.
I sit in a room with a grand piano, top open —
a one-winged creature, whilst my gran polishes
for hours. Finally bored I start to pick some notes,
oh can you wash a sailor's shirt oh can you wash and clean
till my gran comes running, duster in hand.
I told you don't touch anything. The woman comes too;
the posh one all smiles that make goosepimples
run up my arms. Would you like to sing me a song?
Someone's crying my Lord Kumbaya. Lovely, she says,
beautiful child, skin the colour of café au lait.
'Café oh what? Hope she's not being any bother.'
Not at all. Not at all. You just get back to your work.
On the way back to her high rise I see her
like the hunchback of Notre Dame. Everytime I crouch
over a comic she slaps me. Sit up straight.

She is on the ground floor of a high rise.
From her living-room you see ambulances,
screaming their way to the Royal Infirmary.

Questions

50. Read lines 1 to 11.

By referring to **two** examples of language, explain how the poet makes clear the speaker's feelings about going to church. **[4 marks]**

51. Read lines 12 to 30.

By referring to **two** examples of language, explain what we learn about the relationship between the speaker and the Grandmother. **[4 marks]**

52. Read lines 12 to 30.

(a) By referring to **one** example of language, explain how the poet creates a clear impression of the house that the Grandmother cleans. **[2 marks]**

(b) By referring to **one** example of language, explain how the poet creates a clear impression of the attitude of the woman who lives there. **[2 marks]**

53. By referring to this extract and to at least one other poem by Kay, show how strong feelings are a feature of her poetry. **[8 marks]**

[END OF SECTION 1]

SECTION 2 — CRITICAL ESSAY — 20 marks

Attempt ONE question from the following genre — Prose.

PROSE

Answers to questions in this part 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 . . .

3. Choose a novel or short story or work of non-fiction which explores a theme that interests you.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer makes this theme interesting.

4. Choose a novel or short story or work of non-fiction in which there is a character for whom you feel sympathy.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer makes you feel this way.

[END OF SECTION 2]

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]