

N5

National Qualifications

2026

English

Critical Reading

Thursday, 30 April

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.

[For Section 1, only Part A — Drama Text 3 is provided in this paper.]

Attempt ALL questions for this text.

SECTION 2 – Critical essay – 20 marks

Attempt ONE question from the following genre – Prose, Poetry, Film and Television

Drama, or Language.

[For Section 2, Drama has not been **[Braille page 2]** provided in this paper as this was opted for in Section 1.]

You must clearly identify the question number you are attempting on your answer sheet.

An owl in the margin indicates a new question.

[Braille page 3] SECTION 1 — SCOTTISH TEXT — 20 marks

Text 3 — Drama

Read the extract below and then attempt the following questions.

Tally's Blood by Ann Marie di Mambro

LUCIA: I want to go to the wedding with Hughie.

Stunned silence.

ROSINELLA: You what?

LUCIA: Hughie's brother's wedding on Saturday. Hughie's asked me to go with him.

ROSINELLA: He asked you — to go with HIM!

LUCIA: Yes. Can I go?

ROSINELLA: The cheek of him!

MASSIMO: Steady on, Rosie.

ROSINELLA: Who does he think he is, anyway?

LUCIA: Please, Auntie Rosinella?

ROSINELLA: And you've got some nerve to ask, lady.

LUCIA: Does that mean no?

ROSINELLA: Fine you know it means no.

LUCIA: But why?

[Braille page 4] ROSINELLA: Massimo, talk to her.

MASSIMO: (Shrugs) Hello, Lucia.

ROSINELLA: Some help you! (Tries gentle approach to Lucia)

Listen, hen, you're Italian, that makes you special. OK, so the Scotch people let their lassies go anywhere, do anything they like because they don't care as much. It's because I love you I want the best for you. You understand that, surely?

Lucia looks away, heard it all before.

ROSINELLA: (Annoyed/to Massimo) How come you always leave it to me? You tell her.

LUCIA: Please, Uncle Massimo?

MASSIMO: (To Rosinella) Why no just let her go?

Rosinella beginning to fly off the handle.

ROSINELLA: Oh, that's great! That's some help.

MASSIMO: You're too hard on her.

[Braille page 5] ROSINELLA: Oh aye, and you think you're that good. She's no to get going and that's that.

Lucia starts to cry.

LUCIA: You never let me go anywhere.

MASSIMO: See what you've done now.

ROSINELLA: That's right. Blame me. You want her mixing with all the toerags from the Auld Toon?

LUCIA: You never let me do anything.

ROSINELLA: Now come on, Lucia. You don't need to cry.

LUCIA: I just want to go to the wedding. One day. That's all I'm asking.

ROSINELLA: Now stop it, hen, come on. I'll make it up to you.

LUCIA: But WHY can't I go?

ROSINELLA: I've told you why no. Now come on, you can get anything you want.

LUCIA: (Scoffs) I NEVER get what I want. Never.

ROSINELLA: (Shocked: to Massimo) You hear that?

LUCIA: Not what 'I' want!

ROSINELLA: Please, Lucia, **[Braille page 6]** you know I hate to see you cry.

LUCIA: It's always got to be what YOU say. You never think about ME!

ROSINELLA: Now come on, Lucia, I said I'll make it up to you.

Massimo has been looking on: no help.

MASSIMO: You're being too soft with her.

ROSINELLA: Oh aye, you think you're that good. You talk to her.

Massimo prepares himself for the stern uncle bit, goes up to her.

MASSIMO: (Very gently) Lucia, please listen, hen ...

Lucia howls.

LUCIA: I wish I was back in Italy.

Her biggest gun: she storms off (to front shop).

Questions

ow 10. Refer to lines 1 to 29

By referring to two examples of language, show how Rosinella's reactions to Lucia's news about the wedding **[Braille page 7]** are made clear. [4 marks]

ow 11. Refer to lines 30 to 38.

Using your own words as far as possible, explain why Rosinella doesn't want Lucia to go to the wedding.

You should make two key points. [2 marks]

ow 12. Refer to lines 39 to 55.

By referring to one example, show how conflict between Rosinella and Massimo is made clear. [2 marks]

ow 13. Refer to lines 56 to 106.

By referring to two examples, explain what is revealed about the character of Lucia. [4 marks]

ow 14. By referring to this extract and to elsewhere in the play, show how the character of Massimo is presented. [8 marks]

[Braille page 8] SECTION 2 — CRITICAL ESSAY — 20 marks

Attempt ONE question from the following genres — Prose, Poetry, Film and Television Drama, or Language.

You should spend approximately 45 minutes on this section.

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 ...

Now 3. Choose a novel or short story or work of non-fiction which contains a character for whom you feel sympathy.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer creates sympathy for the character.

Now 4. Choose a novel or short story or work of non-fiction which explores an important theme or issue.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer explores this theme or issue.

[Braille page 9] POETRY

Answers to questions in this part should refer to the text and to such relevant features as word choice, tone, imagery, structure, content, rhythm, rhyme, theme, sound, ideas ...

Now 5. Choose a poem which explores an important experience.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the important experience is explored.

Now 6. Choose a poem which explores a theme or issue which interests you.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the theme or issue is explored.

FILM AND TV DRAMA

Answers to questions in this part 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 ...

Now 7. Choose a scene or sequence from a film or TV drama* which has a powerful impact.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how this impact is created.

[Braille page 10] Now 8. Choose a film or TV drama* which contains an interesting character.

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how this character is presented.

* 'TV drama' includes a single play, a series or a serial.

LANGUAGE

Answers to questions in this part should refer to the text and to such relevant features as register, accent, dialect, slang, jargon, vocabulary, tone, abbreviation ...

Now 9. Choose an example of language which aims to persuade you to buy something or do something or support a particular point of view.

By referring to specific examples, explain how persuasive language is used effectively.

ow 10. Choose an example of language which is used by people who have the same interest or job, or who are from the same area.

By referring to specific examples, explain the features of this language.

[END OF SECTION 2]

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]