

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 C — Poetry Text 5 is provided in this paper.]

Attempt ALL questions for this text.

SECTION 2 – Critical essay – 20 marks

Attempt ONE question from the following genre – Film and Television Drama.

[For Section 2, only Film and Television Drama has been provided in this paper.]

[Braille page 2] An ow in the margin indicates a new question.

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

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

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

PART C — SCOTTISH TEXT — POETRY

Text 5 — Poetry

Read the poem below and then attempt the following questions.

Darling by Jackie Kay

You might forget the exact sound of her voice

or how her face looked when sleeping.

You might forget the sound of her quiet weeping

curled into the shape of a half moon,

when smaller than her self, she seemed already to be leaving

before she left, when the blossom was on the trees

and the sun was out, and all seemed good in the world.

I held her hand and sang a song from when I was a girl —

Heel y'ho boys, let her go boys —

and when I stopped singing she had slipped away,

already a slip of a girl again, skipping off,

[Braille page 4] her heart light, her face almost smiling.

And what I didn't know or couldn't say then

was that she hadn't really gone.

The dead don't go till you do, loved ones.

The dead are still here holding our hands.

Questions

ow 49. Refer to lines 1 to 4.

By referring to two examples of language, explain how the poet creates a sense of loss. [4 marks]

ow 50. Refer to lines 5 to 12.

By referring to two examples of language, explain how the poet makes clear the speaker's thoughts. [4 marks]

ow 51. Refer to lines 13 to 16.

By referring to two examples of language, explain how the poet creates a powerful ending. [4 marks]

ow 52. By referring to this poem and to at least one other poem by Kay, show how the poet explores memorable experiences. [8 marks]

[END OF SECTION 1]

[Braille page 5] SECTION 2 — CRITICAL ESSAY — 20 marks

Attempt ONE question from the following genre — Film and Television Drama.

You should spend approximately 45 minutes on this section.

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 ...

ow 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.

ow 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.

[END OF SECTION 2]

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]