

N5

National Qualifications

2023

English

Critical Reading

Wednesday, 10 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.

[For Section 1, only Part C — Poetry 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

[For Section 2, only Prose has been provided in this paper.]

You must clearly identify the question number you **[Braille Page 2]** are attempting on your answer sheet.

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

An ow in the margin indicates a new question.

[Braille Page 3] SECTION 1

SCOTTISH TEXT

20 marks

PART C

SCOTTISH TEXT

POETRY

Text 3 — Poetry

Read the poem below and then attempt the following questions.

Hotel room, 12th floor by Norman MacCaig

This morning I watched from here
a helicopter skirting like a damaged insect
the Empire State Building, that
jumbo size dentist's drill, and landing
5 on the roof of the PanAm skyscraper.
But now midnight has come in
from foreign places. Its uncivilised darkness
is shot at by a million lit windows, all
ups and acrosses
10 But midnight is not
so easily defeated. I lie in bed, between
a radio and a television set, and **[Braille Page 4]** hear
the wildest of warwhoops continually ululating through
the glittering canyons and gulches –
15 police cars and ambulances racing
to the broken bones, the harsh screaming
from coldwater flats, the blood
glazed on sidewalks.
The frontier is never
20 somewhere else. And no stockades
can keep the midnight out.

Questions

- ow 47. Refer to lines 1-5. By referring to two examples of language, explain how the poet creates a clear impression of the city. [4 marks]
- ow 48. Refer to lines 6-9. By referring to two examples of language, explain how the poet creates a sense of threat. [4 marks]
- ow 49. Refer to lines 10-18. By referring to two examples of language, explain how the poet creates a clear sense of conflict. [4 marks]
- ow 50. By referring to this poem and to at least one other poem by MacCaig, show how setting is an important feature. [8 marks]

[Braille Page 5] [END OF SECTION 1]

[Braille Page 6] 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 ...

- ow 3. Choose a novel or short story or work of non-fiction which contains an interesting theme or issue. By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer makes the theme or issue interesting. [20 marks]

OR

- ow 4. Choose a novel or short story or work of non-fiction which contains a character for whom you have strong feelings. By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the writer makes you feel this way. [20 marks]

[END OF SECTION 2]

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]