



**English ATAR Examination, Semester 2, 2023**

**Question/Answer booklet**

**YEAR 12  
ATAR ENGLISH**

Place your student identification label in this box.

Student number: In figures

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In words

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**Time allowed for this paper**

Reading time before commencing work: ten minutes  
Working time: three hours

**Materials required/recommended for this paper**

**To be provided by the supervisor**

This Question/Answer booklet

Number of additional  
answer booklets used  
(if applicable)

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**To be provided by the candidate**

Standard items: pens (blue/black preferred), pencils (including coloured), sharpener,  
correction fluid/tape, eraser, ruler, highlighters

Special items: nil

**Important note to candidates**

No other items may be taken into the examination room. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that you do not have any unauthorised material. If you have any unauthorised material with you, hand it to the supervisor **before** reading any further.

**Structure of this paper**

Section	Number of questions available	Number of questions to be answered	Suggested working time (minutes)	Marks available	Percentage of examination
Section One Comprehending	2	2	60	30	30
Section Two Responding	6	1	60	40	40
Section Three Composing	5	1	60	30	30
<b>Total</b>					100

**Instructions to candidates**

1. The rules for the conduct of the Western Australian external examinations are detailed in the Year 12 Information Handbook 2023: Part II Examinations. Sitting this examination implies that you agree to abide by these rules.
2. Write your answers in this Question/Answer booklet preferably using a blue/black pen.
3. Do not use erasable or gel pens.
4. You must be careful to confine your answers to the specific questions asked and to follow any instructions that are specific to a particular question.
5. Supplementary pages for planning/continuing your answers to questions are provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.
6. You must not use texts from Section One to answer questions from Section Two.

**Section One: Comprehending****30% (30 Marks)**

In this section, there are **two** texts and **two** questions. Answer **all** questions.

You are required to comprehend and analyse unseen written and visual texts and respond concisely in approximately 200-300 words for each question.

Suggested working time: 60 minutes.

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**Question 1****(15 Marks)**

Explain how the author of **Text 1** utilised a particular perspective to elicit a reader response to an idea.

**Question 2****(15 Marks)**

Analyse how **Text 2** works to convey an idea about human nature.

**Text 1**

Text 1 is an abridged extract from the 2022 novel, *Only Birds Above* by Portland Jones. Most of the novel is set following World War 1 when Helen is a young wife and mother, but the following excerpt is from her childhood when she was nine years old.

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The island rose out of the ocean in hazy shades of limestone, low, and the curve of the bay like open arms. Helen smiled for the light through the shallow water, so clear she could see the ridges in the sand left by the tide. And the abundance of blue. They walked down the jetty to the island and the crowd around her seemed drab and poor amongst so much brightness.

\* \* \*

Just as they were packing up for the trip home, Helen heard a clinking sound like a horse in harness and the soft thud of many bare feet on the ground. She looked up. A group of Aboriginal prisoners were walking back to the Rottneest prison for the night. An overseer with a sunburned face walked beside them, a long whip curled in his hand. Three across they walked, shackled from neck to neck and even from a distance she could see the steel collars rubbing the soft skin raw. They were thin and worn, the bones of their shoulders showing and their ribs like barrel hoops above faded cotton trousers. They were broken inside she could see, their eyes already dead.

Helen felt her chest constrict and she looked up at the adults on the beach, the breath in her sharp and hard. Her mother frowned, pulled a fan from her bag, snapped it open with a quick wrist and turned away, fanning. Her father was across the wet sand quickly and he took her shoulders and his jacket smelled like home and she closed her eyes and tried to breathe around the pain in the dark men's faces and the sadness that settled inside her like a seed.

The breeze came up on the way home, pulling the sea to peaks and the narrow boat pitched and Helen kneeled at the rail, crying. She was sick as they entered Fremantle Harbour, leaving a long pink and white slick on the sea. She closed her eyes against the cold wind and saw the men walking, and her own neck felt tight and sore. Her father stroked her hair and above the sound of the engine turning she heard the clink of chains and the soft thud of many bare feet on the ground.

'It's alright,' he said kneeling, holding her head against his chest. 'Everything's going to be alright.'

But she knew, for the first time, that he was wrong.

### Question 1

**(15 Marks)**

Explain how the author of **Text 1** utilised a particular perspective to elicit a reader response to an idea.

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See next page

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**Text 2**

The following is a black and white reproduction of an image taken by Genya Savilov from *The Moscow Times*. The section of the newspaper was titled 'In Photos: Ukrainian Children Live and Play Amid War'. The caption of the photograph is, "A boy rides his scooter past the destroyed city hall building in Okhtyrka, Sumy region of Ukraine."

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## Question 2

**(15 Marks)**

Analyse how **Text 2** works to convey an idea about human nature.

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See next page

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**Section Two: Responding****40% (40 Marks)**

In this section, there are **six** questions. Answer **one** question.

Your response should demonstrate your analytical and critical thinking skills with reference to any text or text type you have studied.

Suggested working time: 60 minutes.

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**Question 3****(40 Marks)**

Discuss how **a text** uses voice to encourage you to relate to and support others outside of your own personal context.

**Question 4****(40 Marks)**

With reference to **at least one text**, discuss how particular settings and/or use of symbols construct ideas about society.

**Question 5****(40 Marks)**

With reference to one text examine the ways knowledge of context facilitates a richer understanding of the issue(s) it explores.

**Question 6****(40 Marks)**

Compare the way(s) two texts have represented a social group.

**Question 7****(40 Marks)**

Analyse how the stylistic features and/or the construction of at least **one** text has been manipulated for effect.

**Question 8****(40 Marks)**

Compare how **two** texts of different genres have represented the same issue/s or idea/s.

Question number: \_\_\_\_\_

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This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal black lines, resembling notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**Section Three: Composing****30% (30 Marks)**

In this section, there are **five** questions. Answer **one** question.

You are required to demonstrate writing skills by choosing a form of writing appropriate to a specific audience, context and purpose.

Suggested working time: 60 minutes.

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**Question 9****(30 Marks)**

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”  
(Nelson Mandela)

Compose an interpretive text in which you reflect on this statement.

**Question 10****(30 Marks)**

Develop a text in a form of your choice that explores an idea from the following image.



**Question 11****(30 Marks)**

Craft an imaginative text that develops a perspective inspired by the following line:

‘We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are.’ Max Depree (Businessman)

**Question 12****(30 Marks)**

“It has been said that looking at history takes one’s breath away.  
I admit to the choking feeling of living with the burden of the past.”  
– Stan Grant (Australian Journalist)

Incorporate this statement into a persuasive or interpretive text intended to educate an audience.

**Question 13****(30 Marks)**

Create a text in a form of your choice that features an unlikely hero/heroine.

**End of questions**

See next page

Question number: \_\_\_\_\_

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[illegible]

[illegible]



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[illegible]

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### Additional working space

Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Question number: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- Text 1** Jones, P., 2022, *Only Birds Above*, Fremantle Press, WA, Australia.
- Text 2** Photograph was taken by Genya Savilov – Moscow Times 2022  
Retrieved June 2023 from:  
<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/08/15/in-photos-ukrainian-children-live-and-play-amid-war-a78569>
- Question 9** Quote from: Mandela, N. (2003).  
Retrieved from:  
[https://mandelaexhibition.com/wpcontent/uploads/2019/02/Mandela\\_EDU\\_Introducing-Mandela\\_power\\_point\\_FINAL.pdf](https://mandelaexhibition.com/wpcontent/uploads/2019/02/Mandela_EDU_Introducing-Mandela_power_point_FINAL.pdf)
- Question 10** Photograph was created by ESB Professional  
Retrieved June 2023 from:  
<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/standing-crossroads-climate-crisis>
- Question 11** Quote from: Dupree, M.  
Retrieved from:  
[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/max\\_de\\_pree\\_377124](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/max_de_pree_377124)
- Question 12** Quote from: Grant, S. (2020)  
Retrieved June 2023 from:  
[https://readfrom.net/stan-grant/462551-australia\\_day.html](https://readfrom.net/stan-grant/462551-australia_day.html)