

93001Q

NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Scholarship 2005 English

9.30 am Tuesday 6 December 2005

Time allowed: 3 hours

Total marks: 24

QUESTION BOOKLET

This examination paper has THREE sections:

Section A Close reading of unfamiliar texts

Section B Response to literature and language

Section C Exploring issues in literature and language

Write THREE essays in total, ONE from each section, in the separate Answer Booklet 93001A.

Each essay is worth 8 marks.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–9 in the correct order.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Write a response, in the form of an **essay** of at least **800 words**, to **EACH** of:

- SECTION A;
- ONE topic from SECTION B (Topics 1–16);
- ONE topic from SECTION C (Topics 17–28);

a total of THREE essays.

Each essay should:

- demonstrate an extensive knowledge of the texts and the methods used in crafting them
- respond critically with mature ideas and independent reflection
- sustain coherent, substantiated and engaging argument.

Your essay should show accurate use and control of the conventions of academic writing.

USE THIS SPACE FOR PLANNING

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SECTION A – Close Reading of Unfamiliar Texts

Write an essay comparing the treatment of **endings** in the following TWO passages. Pay **close attention** to the way each writer has **crafted techniques** such as the choice of vocabulary, phrasing, point of view, positioning of the reader, figurative language and structure to **reinforce content**.

Circles and Straight Lines

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[Source: Opening of Chapter 1 of *Stranger on a Train: Daydreaming and Smoking Around America with Interruptions*, a travelogue memoir by Jenny Diski, Virago 2002.]

The Child in the Gardens: Winter
by Vincent O'Sullivan

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See below.]*

SECTION B – Response to Literature and Language

Write a coherent and engaging essay in response to ONE of the following topics 1–16. Use the topic as the focus for an **in-depth discussion of a relevant text or texts**. Your discussion should reflect **independent thinking** and be **substantiated** by frequent, appropriate and integrated **references** or **quotations**.

DO NOT REPEAT CONTENT OR REFERENCES IN SECTIONS B AND C.

Either:

1. Many of Shakespeare's plays focus on the ways in which complex characters respond to an environment infected by evil.

Discuss this statement with detailed reference to a **Shakespearean play** you have studied.

Or:

2. Discuss Shakespeare's exploration of the relationship between power and gender in a **Shakespearean play** you have studied.

Or:

3. Discuss the view that there is little pleasure to be had from **novels** in which good finally triumphs, all problems are resolved, and love prevails.

Or:

4. "The greatest mystery of all is the human heart, and that is the mystery with which all good novelists are concerned." (PD James)

Discuss how this concern is explored in a **novel** or **novels** you have studied.

Or:

5. Discuss what is lost and what is gained in a **film adaptation** of a text you have studied.

Or:

6. Discuss, with reference to at least one **film** you have studied, the ways in which images from today's cinema allow people to recognise themselves and their culture.

Or:

7. According to Anthony Burgess, the danger of **television**, especially when its standards are established by commercial interests, is that it is an agent of social degradation.

Discuss the extent to which this statement reflects the state of New Zealand television in 2005. Support your views with detailed reference to one or more **television programme(s)** you have studied.

Or:

8. Thomas Hardy considered that a poet should express the emotion of all the ages and the thought of his own.

Discuss this statement with reference to **poems** you have studied.

Or:

9. Discuss how poetic language and form allow the poet to explore strong emotions in **poems** you have studied.

Or:

10. In **live theatre**, every technique learned by the actor, every curtain, every flat on the stage, every decision made by the director is made to enrich the appreciation of the audience.

Discuss this statement with reference to **theatrical productions** you have studied.

Or:

11. In the eighteenth century, Samuel Johnson wrote, "advertisements are now so numerous that they are very negligently perused, and it is therefore become necessary to gain attention by magnificence of promises, and by eloquences sometimes sublime and sometimes pathetic".

Discuss the relevance of his statement to your studies of the **language of advertising**.

Or:

12. Short stories often focus on the experience of isolated individuals.

Discuss this statement with reference to **short stories** you have studied.

Or:

13. For generations, the short story form has been used by writers to explore significant aspects of cultural and/or societal values.

Discuss this statement with reference to **short stories** you have studied.

Or:

14. Discuss the qualities of a text you have studied that could be described as **literary journalism**.

Or:

15. Discuss the literary qualities of a **non-fiction text** you have studied.

Or:

16. Information technology is owned by us all. It has turned audiences into participants.

Discuss, with reference to **on-line text(s)** you have studied, the ways that on-line writing has altered the traditional relationship between writer and reader.

SECTION C – Exploring Issues in Literature and Language

Write an essay in response to ONE of the following topics 17–28. Your essay should take the form of a **coherent, engaging argument** substantiated by **relevant ideas and textual references**. Your discussion should reflect **independent thinking** and show **extensive knowledge of a range of texts**, their **purposes** and the **methods** used in **crafting** them.

DO NOT REPEAT CONTENT OR REFERENCES IN SECTIONS B AND C.

Either:

- 17.** “The best texts go to the edge and risk falling over it.”

Discuss the extent to which a range of texts you have studied has been enriched by the risks they take.

Or:

- 18.** “Serious literature is like the decayed heart of a grand old city whose prosperous outer suburbs correspond to the popular genres, such as romance and crime fiction.”

With reference to a range of texts you have studied, discuss the extent to which pulp fiction has superseded more serious literature in today’s world.

Or:

- 19.** Author Julian Barnes asks, “Why does the writing make us chase the writer?” Is it voyeurism or does knowledge of the writer give us insight into the writing?

Discuss with reference to a range of texts you have studied.

Or:

- 20.** With reference to a range of texts you have studied, discuss the extent to which literature loses or retains its value over time.

Or:

- 21.** Andy Serkis, who ‘plays’ the character Gollum in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, said of him: “I wanted the audience to feel that they had some connection to this character, that he wasn’t just a black and white villain, an absolute villain, because you’d get bored with him after two minutes.”

With reference to the villains in a range of texts you have studied, discuss the extent to which their portrayal makes them engaging.

Or:

- 22.** Eighteenth-century satirist Jonathan Swift noted that, “satire is a sort of mirror, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody’s face but their own”.

With reference to a range of texts you have studied, discuss how satire is used to comment on society.

Or:

- 23.** “The real art is not to come up with extraordinary clever words but to make ordinary simple words do extraordinary things.”

Discuss this statement with reference to a range of texts you have studied.

Or:

- 24.** “Reading or viewing texts of quality enables us to explore different ways of seeing things, without feeling obliged to take a particular point of view.”

Discuss this statement with reference to a range of texts you have studied.

Or:

- 25.** James Joyce described the writer as an artist who, “like the God of the creation, remains within or behind or beyond or above his handiwork, invisible, refined out of existence, indifferent, paring his fingernails”.

Discuss the significance of the writer’s invisibility (or presence) in a range of texts you have studied.

Or:

- 26.** Dr Seuss described fantasy as a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope.

With reference to a range of texts you have studied, discuss the extent to which fantasy connects with real life.

Or:

- 27.** Discuss the extent to which a range of texts you have studied succeeds in combining social commentary and artistic excellence.

Or:

- 28.** Discuss the ideas about culture that are promoted by a range of **text types** you have studied.