NZQA

NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Scholarship 2009
English

9.30 am Thursday 19 November 2009
Time allowed: Three hours
Total marks: 24

QUESTION BOOKLET

This examination 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 Answer Booklet 93001A.

Each essay is worth 8 marks.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–9 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

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

You have three hours to complete this 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 1–13)
- ONE topic from SECTION C (Topics 14–26).

Each essay should:
- demonstrate an extensive understanding of the texts discussed and the methods used in crafting them
- respond critically with mature ideas and independent reflection
- sustain coherent, substantiated and engaging argument
- show accurate use and control of the conventions of academic writing.

PLANNING

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SECTION A: CLOSE READING OF UNFAMILIAR TEXTS

The following passages present the reader with descriptions of the emotions and experiences involved in interactions with dogs.

Write an essay **comparing** these **descriptions** AND the **techniques** used to convey them.

Runaway

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Note:
* tabor – a small drum

Source: Linda France, "Runaway", from Josephine Phillips (ed), *Poems Deep & Dangerous* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), p 71.

from **Patience**

The writer is looking after a neighbour's dog at the same time as dealing with acute back pain.

Jack had become my dog, for the duration at least …

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… He enjoyed so much.

Source (adapted): Elizabeth Knox, *The Love School: Personal Essays* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2008), pp 319–320.

SECTION B: RESPONSE TO LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

Write a coherent and engaging essay in response to ONE of Topics 1–13. Use the topic as the focus for an **in-depth discussion of a relevant text or texts**.

Your discussion should reflect **independent thinking** substantiated by frequent, appropriate and integrated **references** and / or **quotations**.

Note: No content or quotations used in your answer to this section should be repeated in Section C.

TOPICS (Choose ONE)

1.   "Intense personal relationships often lie at the heart of novels."
     Discuss this statement, referring to one or more **novels** you have studied.

2.   "Non-linear narration, in which events are portrayed out of order or from multiple points of view, is very effective in novels."
     Discuss this statement, referring to one or more **novels** you have studied.

3.   "Any poem that can be completely understood or paraphrased is not a poem."
     Discuss this statement, referring to **poems** you have studied.

4.   "In poetry, it is the representation of human emotion that speaks most powerfully to the reader or listener."
     Discuss this statement, referring to **poems** you have studied.

5.   "Their methods reveal: their littleness is their power."
     Discuss the validity of this statement, referring to **short stories** you have studied.

6.   "Shakespeare's characters often suffer from delusion, or are deliberately involved in the delusion of others."
     Discuss the representation of delusion and its consequences in one or more plays by **Shakespeare** you have studied.

7.   "Shakespeare leaves us all satisfied at the end of his plays."
     Discuss this statement, referring to one or more plays by **Shakespeare** you have studied.

8.   "Good drama seethes with conflict."
     Discuss the extent to which this statement is true in one or more **plays** you have studied.

9.   "Intense personal relationships often lie at the heart of films."
     Discuss the representation of such relationships, referring to one or more **films** you have studied.

10. "Non-linear narration, in which events are portrayed out of order or from multiple points of view, is very effective in films."

Discuss this statement, referring to one or more **films** you have studied.

11. "The way we speak and / or write reveals who we are."

Discuss the validity of this statement, referring to a range of **relevant language texts** you have studied.

12. The author Nicholas Carr writes, "My mind expects to take in information the way the internet distributes it: in a swiftly moving stream of particles. Once I was a scuba diver in the sea of words. Now I zip along the surface like a guy on a jet ski."

Discuss how "e-reading" affects the way we think, referring to a range of relevant **electronic texts** you have studied.

13. "Non-linear narration, in which events are portrayed out of order or from multiple points of view, is very effective in non-fiction."

Discuss this statement, referring to one or more **non-fiction** texts you have studied.

SECTION C: EXPLORING ISSUES IN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

Write an essay in response to ONE of Topics 14–26. 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 appropriate texts**, their **purposes**, and the **methods used in crafting them**.

Note: No content or quotations used in your answer to Section B should be repeated in this section.

TOPICS (Choose ONE)

14. "Literature from non-Western cultures has achieved significant global respect."
Discuss the extent to which this statement is valid, referring to genres you have experienced.

15. Why should we bother to study writing from the past and / or from countries that do not seem relevant to us?
Respond to this question, referring to a range of texts you have experienced.

16. "Those who create media-based texts focus far too little on fact and truth."
Discuss the validity of this statement, referring to a range of relevant media texts you have experienced.

17. "Alternative worlds depicted in literature shed light on aspects of our own humanity."
Discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement, referring to a range of relevant texts you have experienced.

18. "It is inevitable that national or cultural identity contributes to the world represented in literature."
Respond to this statement, referring to a range of relevant texts you have experienced.

19. "Loss of innocence has been a recurring theme since biblical times."
Discuss the ways this theme has been explored in a range of relevant texts you have experienced.

20. "The territory between madness and sanity is frequently explored in literature."
Discuss this statement, referring to a range of relevant texts you have experienced.

21. "Violence has no valid place in literature."
Discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement, referring to a range of relevant texts you have experienced.

22. "Literature is charged with bringing to readers ideas about moral responsibility and justice."
Discuss the extent to which writers and / or film-makers accept this charge, referring to a range of relevant texts you have experienced.

23. To paraphrase the writer Nathaniel Hawthorne: "Words – how innocent and powerless they are standing in a dictionary, yet how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them."

Discuss the potency of language and its deliberate manipulation for good and / or evil, referring to a range of relevant texts you have experienced.

24. To what extent can the work of a range of writers and / or film-makers you have experienced be considered daring and / or dangerous?

25. To what extent does your reading of literature support the view that humans are only ever momentarily happy?

26. "Contemporary literatures will easily stand the test of time."

Discuss this statement, referring to a range of relevant texts you have experienced.