

93001Q



930012



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Scholarship 2008 English

2.00 pm Saturday 29 November 2008

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 14–25).

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 attitudes to the ways in which certain human industries interact with our planet.

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

Sea grass

5

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See below.*

10

15

20

from Passage to Juneau

The boats were fitting out, at the last minute, as usual, for their spring migration to the Alaskan fishing grounds ...

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25

30

35 ... as the moment neared when the last line is cast off, the goodbyes are waved, the screw makes the water boil under the stern, and the passage to Alaska is under way.

Source (adapted): Jonathan Raban, *Passage to Juneau* (London: Picador, 2000), pp 4–6.

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. "Poetry comes closer to vital truth than history", claimed Plato.
How convincingly does a range of **poetry** that you have studied convey vital truth?

2. "The innermost spirit of poetry is the voice of pain, and the printed text is the treatment by which the poet tries to reconcile that pain with the everyday world."
Discuss the extent to which this statement reflects your experiences of a range of **poetry** that you have studied.

3. "A key to the enduring power and appeal of the short story is that, like a good photograph, it gives us a rare chance to see below the surface of real life."
Discuss this statement, referring to a range of **short stories** that you have studied.

4. "Novels have been published for hundreds of years. While each year thousands of new titles appear and disappear, there are novels that endure."
Referring to one or more **novels** that you have studied, discuss the qualities that suggest a novel will endure for future generations.

5. "A novel's effectiveness owes much to the power of its characterisation."
Referring to one or more **novels** that you have studied, discuss the qualities of successful characterisation.

6. Author Jonathan Franzen argues against reading literature electronically: "Literature is not data. The difference between Shakespeare on a BlackBerry and Shakespeare in the Arden Edition is like the difference between wedding vows taken in a shoe store and in a cathedral."
Argue a case for or against **electronic text** as literature, referring to texts that you have studied.
Note: A BlackBerry® is a wireless electronic hand-held device used for mobile email communication and information exchange.

7. "Disguise and mistaken identity are favourite devices of Shakespeare's."
Discuss how disguise or mistaken identity, or both, can contribute to our understanding of one or more plays by **Shakespeare** that you have studied.

8. "Shakespeare's comedic touch is evident, even in his darkest tragedies."
Discuss this statement, referring to one or more plays by **Shakespeare** that you have studied.
9. "Drama is story-telling at its best."
To what extent do you agree with this view? Refer to one or more **plays** that you have studied (as a text or in performance).
10. "Movies typically star an idealised male hero who is the active subject of the story. Women, on the other hand, are presented as essentially passive creatures."
Argue a case for or against this view, referring to one or more **films** that you have studied.
11. "While also exploring the joys of life, the best films tackle things that in life we all find hard to face (for example, violence, incest, abuse, racism, injustice, hypocrisy)."
Discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement, referring to one or more **films** that you have studied.
12. "Non-fiction may not be fiction, but it is always to some extent creative."
Discuss this statement, referring to **non-fiction** that you have studied.
13. "Our power as communicators is determined by how carefully we control our language."
Referring to **language use** in a range of texts you have studied, discuss this statement.

SECTION C: EXPLORING ISSUES IN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

Write an essay in response to ONE of topics 14–25. 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. “The motif of the journey is central to story-telling.”
Discuss how **journeys** adopt **symbolic meanings** in a range of texts you have experienced.
15. “Increasingly, readers in the West are being drawn to literature that gives **insight into unfamiliar cultures**.”
Discuss the validity of this statement, referring to a range of appropriate texts.
16. According to the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, “Love, mere love, is beautiful indeed”.
Argue a case for or against the idea that **love** is **excessively idealised** in literature.
17. “**Texts that feature murder** are often based on ready-made plot structures, but within that framework good writers can effect creative outcomes.”
Discuss this statement, referring to a range of texts you have experienced.
18. A recent study has found **New Zealand** to be the second most peaceful country in the world. Does that make it the second most **boring** to write about?
Argue your case, referring to a range of texts you have experienced.
19. According to the novelist L. P. Hartley, “The past is another country; they do things differently there”.
Discuss this **view of the past**, referring to a range of texts you have experienced.
20. According to the novelist John Steinbeck, “We have only one story. All novels, all poetry, are built on the never-ending contest in ourselves between **good** and **evil**”.
Discuss this statement, referring to a range of texts you have experienced.
21. “While people wail about the decline of English, it is not in fact in decline. ‘Standard English’ is merely an idealised memory of the English that prevailed in a bygone time.”
Drawing on the language of contemporary media, literature, and everyday conversation, discuss how the youth of tomorrow might regard **the English of today**.

22. “The **morality** of a text is of greater significance than its **aesthetic value**.”
Discuss this statement, referring to a range of texts you have experienced.
23. “**Biting realism** and **linguistic dazzlement** seldom exist side by side, yet both are fully applauded by literary critics.”
Referring to a range of texts you have experienced, discuss the extent to which these different literary qualities coexist.
24. “You can take phrases, sentences, even paragraphs from some writers’ prose and put them straight into poetry anthologies.”
With this statement in mind, discuss the extent to which **different literary genres** adopt **distinct language styles**.
25. “**Good literature** is thought-provoking, deeply moving and ultimately a celebratory exploration of the human spirit.”
Discuss this statement, referring to a range of texts you have experienced.