

93001Q



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

## Scholarship 2010 English

9.30 am Tuesday 16 November 2010

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.

## INSTRUCTIONS

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

Text A and Text B each describe relationships that have been inspirational or life-changing.

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

### TEXT A

*from Negrónis with Alan*

Writing and claustrophobia, or rather the need to overcome it, go together ...

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... I was young enough and wise enough not to waste the opportunity for walking on air.

Source (adapted): Graham Swift, 'Negrónis with Alan', from *Making an Elephant: Writing from Within* (London: Picador, 2009), pp 56–63.

**TEXT B****Outcast**  
*for Audre*

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Source: Selina Tusitala Marsh, 'Outcast', from *Fast Talking PI* (Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2009), pp 68–69.

## 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. "A novel's real power lies in characterisation."  
Discuss the validity of this statement with reference to one or more **novels** you have studied.
2. "Fiction inoculates us against fact."  
Discuss this metaphor with reference to one or more **novels** you have studied.
3. "A short story is like a quiet bomb."  
Discuss the aptness of this statement with reference to a range of **short stories** you have studied.
4. "The duty of poets is to enlist the full range of their gifts and tell us truths about humanity."  
Discuss the aptness of this statement with reference to a range of **poetry** you have studied.
5. "Poetry offers access to the inner self."  
With reference to a range of **poetry** you have studied, discuss the extent to which poetry has this power.
6. "Shakespeare exposes our dark and dangerous dreams for the purpose of improving our lives."  
Discuss the aptness of this statement with reference to one or more **Shakespearean plays** you have studied.
7. "Shakespeare: obscure language, improbable situations, outdated characters."  
With these phrases in mind and with reference to one or more **Shakespearean plays** you have studied, discuss what Shakespeare offers us in the 21st century.
8. "Make stuff, put it out there, and other people can do what they like with it."  
With reference to **e-texts** you have studied, discuss the extent to which this view of online creativity produces new and exciting forms of literature.
9. "Drama compellingly draws its audience into a world that is temporarily created on stage."  
Discuss the extent to which this statement is true in one or more **non-Shakespearean plays** you have studied.

10. "Film is too easy. It provides passive entertainment for an audience that is easily satisfied."  
Discuss the validity of this view with reference to one or more **films** you have studied.
11. "Film directors deliberately manipulate their audiences' responses."  
With reference to one or more **films** you have studied, discuss the extent to which this statement is true.
12. "Non-fiction makes no demands on the imagination."  
Discuss the validity of this statement with reference to one or more **non-fiction texts** you have studied.
13. "The best speakers are infinitely more effective than the best writers."  
Discuss the power of spoken language with reference to a range of relevant **spoken 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. “There is nothing like a good wallow in the misery of others.”  
Discuss this statement with reference to a range of literature you have experienced.
15. “Literature deals with race, class, gender, politics, powerlessness.”  
Discuss ways in which a range of literature you have experienced has focused on some of these concerns.
16. “Literature is at its best when the heart conflicts with the brain.”  
Discuss this statement with reference to a range of literature you have experienced.
17. “The essence of comedy is derived from the misfortunes, mistakes, and misadventures of others.”  
Discuss this statement with reference to a range of literature you have experienced.
18. “Men want stuff that’s different from what women want.”  
Discuss the significance of masculinity in a range of texts you have experienced.
19. “In literature, nature plays a significant role; it does not simply provide a backdrop.”  
Discuss the place of nature in a range of literature you have experienced.
20. “Sin and redemption is a favourite combination in literature.”  
Discuss ways in which this theme has been explored in a range of literature you have experienced.
21. “Love’s pleasure and pain is well documented in print and on the screen, but it is too often reduced to mush.”  
Discuss the extent to which a range of literature you have experienced has successfully risen above clichés and stereotypes.
22. “Literature at its best is a way of communicating truths too difficult to talk about.”  
Discuss this view of literature with reference to a range of texts you have enjoyed.



- 23.** “The emotional power of blood is what makes the best stories.”  
Discuss this statement with reference to a range of texts you have enjoyed.
- 24.** “Writers in repressive societies are considered dangerous. That’s why so many of them are in jail.”  
— Don DeLillo  
Discuss this statement with reference to a range of texts you have experienced.
- 25.** “Literature since 1970 no longer conforms to strict genres and styles.”  
Discuss this statement with reference to a range of modern texts you have experienced.
- 26.** “Language is power, and those with power abuse language deliberately and constantly.”  
Evaluate this view with reference to a range of texts you have experienced.





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