

93001Q



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

## Scholarship 2007 English

9.30 am Saturday 24 November 2007

Time allowed: Three 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.**

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 1–15);

ONE topic from SECTION C (Topics 16–25);

**a total of THREE essays.**

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.

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## SECTION A: Close Reading of Unfamiliar Texts

The following two passages offer impressions of the **people and atmosphere of specific places**.

Write an essay **comparing** their **subject matter AND the treatment of it**. Pay close attention to the way each writer has **crafted techniques** to reinforce content.

### Manhattan

Sometimes, from the high windows of the *Rolling Stone* offices in Manhattan, you can make out a faint white blob in the green of Central Park far below ...

5

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15

20

... Other cities have built higher now, or sprawl more boisterously over their landscapes,  
25 but there is still nothing like the looming landscape thicket of the Manhattan skyscrapers,  
jumbled and overbearing.

*[remainder of text omitted]*

Source (adapted): Jan Morris, "Post-Glory: The USA" in *A Writer's World Travels 1950–2000*, pp 237–238.

### **Six Snaps for a Glossy Brochure**

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## SECTION B: Response to Literature and Language

Write a coherent and engaging essay in response to ONE of the following topics 1–15. 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.*

**Either:**

1. "Poetry is as precise as geometry."

Discuss this statement with close reference to **poetry** you have studied.

**Or:**

2. "The popularising of poetry makes it too safe, like some kind of easy-listening radio. The poetry that matters is hard and almost impenetrable."

Discuss this statement with close reference to **poetry** you have studied.

**Or:**

3. "The novel is, or may be, among the mightiest instruments for swaying hearts and guiding the lives of humans."

Discuss this statement with close reference to one or more **novels** you have studied.

**Or:**

4. "Novels are born of disillusionment."

Discuss this statement with close reference to one or more **novels** you have studied.

**Or:**

5. "A good short story can provide a compressed blast of intense intellectual pleasure."

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

**Or:**

6. "The well-told story seems to answer to something very deep in our nature, as if some temporary sense is made of our turbulent journey towards the grave."

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

**Or:**

7. "Shakespeare's most enthralling characters are driven by forces of darkness."

Discuss this statement with close reference to a play or plays by **Shakespeare** you have studied.

**Or:**

8. "The essence of Shakespearean comedy depends on the emergence of some redeeming truth from the shadows into the light."

Discuss this statement with close reference to a comedy or comedies by **Shakespeare** you have studied.

**Or:**

9. "The staging of a play often brings new meanings to the text."

Discuss this statement with close reference to one or more **plays** you have studied.

**Or:**

10. "A play is not a play until it is performed on stage."

Discuss this statement with close reference to one or more **plays** you have studied.

**Or:**

11. "Good film-making creates an almost touchable sense of reality."

Discuss this statement with close reference to one or more **films** you have studied.

**Or:**

12. "Movies today produce movie-making craftsmen, but few artists."

Discuss this statement with close reference to one or more **films** you have studied.

**Or:**

13. In 1946 George Orwell wrote that "political language has to consist largely of euphemism, question-begging and sheer cloudy vagueness."

With close reference to a range of appropriate **media texts**, discuss the extent to which Orwell's remark applies to the language used in the discussion of public issues in today's media.

**Or:**

14. "Non-fiction has traditionally focused on actual people and real events, but increasingly this focus has been undermined."

Discuss this statement with close reference to **non-fiction and/or journalistic texts** you have studied.

**Or:**

15. "The book is dead or dying; hypertext and hypermedia are ensuring fundamental changes in reading and writing."

Discuss this statement with close reference to **hypertext and hypermedia** you have studied.

## SECTION C: Exploring Issues in Literature and Language

Write an essay in response to ONE of the following topics 16–25. 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.*

**Either:**

- 16.** “The heart is deceitful above all things. For centuries literature has been drawn to explore this human weakness.”

Discuss different treatments of this theme over time. Refer closely to a range of texts.

**Or:**

- 17.** Aldous Huxley wrote that “a book about the future can interest us only if its prophecies look as though they might conceivably come true.”

Discuss how apt this view is today. Refer closely to a range of texts.

**Or:**

- 18.** “Literature often explores the collision of cultures and the consequences that ensue.”

Discuss, with close reference to a range of texts, how true this is.

**Or:**

- 19.** “Fracture, discord, and non-linear narrative are commonplace in contemporary texts.”

Discuss, with close reference to a range of texts, how these features contribute to our experience of reading.

**Or:**

- 20.** “Literature continues to offer us either the ‘happy ever after’ ending or the bleakness of misery and despair, both of which provide the reader or audience with the satisfaction of final closure.”

Discuss this statement with close reference to a range of appropriate texts.

**Or:**

- 21.** “The only way a hero can achieve a completely triumphant resolution is by fully developing his masculinity in ways which develop a perfect balance with his ‘inner feminine’.”

Discuss the aptness of this statement with close reference to a range of male heroes from literature.

**Or:**

- 22.** “Heroines used to live happily ever after, and heroes used to be strong and active. But increasingly we find heroines who are active and heroes who are helpless.”

Discuss, with close reference to a range of texts, how literature attempts to satisfy us by conforming to, or subverting stereotypes.



**Or:**

- 23.** "Literature converts ordinary experience into art."

Discuss this statement with close reference to a range of appropriate texts.

**Or:**

- 24.** "Books are the quietest and most constant of friends: they are the wisest and most accessible of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers."

To what extent does this statement apply to literature read today? Refer closely to a range of appropriate texts.

**Or:**

- 25.** "People may or may not say what they mean ... but they always say something designed to get what they want."

To what extent does this statement apply to contemporary language use? Refer closely to a range of appropriate texts.

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