ENGLISH (1)

2020 Trial Written Examination

Reading Time: 15 minutes

Writing Time: 3 hours

TASK BOOK

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Marks
A – Analytical interpretation of a text	20	1	20
B – Comparative analysis of texts	8	1	20
C – Argument and persuasive language	1	1	20
			Total 60

- Students are to write in blue or black pen.
- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners, rulers and an English and/or bilingual printed dictionary.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied:
- Task book of 16 pages

Instructions
- If you choose to write on a multimodal text in Section A, you must not write on a text pair that includes a multimodal text in Section B.
- All written responses must be in English.

At the end of the examination
- You may keep this task book.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

SECTION A – Analytical interpretation of a text

Instructions for Section A

Section A requires students to write an analytical interpretation of a selected text in response to **one** topic (either **i.** or **ii.**) on **one** text.

Your response should be supported by close reference to the selected text.

If your selected text is a collection of poetry or short stories, you may write on several poems or stories, or on **at least two** in close detail.

If you choose to write on a multimodal text in Section A, you must **not** write on a text pair that includes a multimodal text in Section B.

In your answer book, indicate which text you have chosen to write on and whether you have chosen to answer **i.** or **ii.**

Section A is worth one-third of the total marks for the examination.

Text List

1.   *Things Fall Apart*……………………………………………………………………………….... Chinua Achebe
2.   *Pride and Prejudice*……………………………………………………………………………… Jane Austen
3.   *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*…………………..... Katherine Boo
4.   *In Cold Blood*…………………………………………………………………………………. Truman Capote
5.   *All the Light We Cannot See*…………………………………………………………………... Anthony Doerr
6.   *The Women of Troy*……………………………………………………………………………. Euripides
7.   *The Lieutenant*…………………………………………………………………………………. Kate Grenville
8.   *Rear Window*…………………………………………………………………………………... Alfred Hitchcock (director)
9.   *Nine Days*……………………………………………………………………………………. Toni Jordan
10.   *Like a House on Fire*…………………………………………………………………………… Cate Kennedy
11.   *The Golden Age*……………………………………………………………………………..… Joan London
12.   *Runaway*………………………………………………………………………………………. Alice Munro
13.   *After Darkness*………………………………………………………………………………..… Christine Piper
14.   *Stories We Tell*………………………………………………………………………………. Sarah Polley (director)
15.   *Extinction*……………………………………………………………………………………..... Hannie Rayson
16.   *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*…………………………………..……………………………… Marjane Satrapi
17.   *Much Ado About Nothing*……………………………...…………………………………..…… William Shakespeare
18.   *Old/New World: New & Selected Poems*…………………..…………………………..……………… Peter Skrzynecki
19.   *Station Eleven*…………..………...………………………………………………………..... Emily St John Mandel
20.   *William Wordsworth: Poems selected by Seamus Heaney*…………..………………….. William Wordsworth

1. *Things Fall Apart* **by Chinua Achebe**

    i.   "[Okonkwo's] whole life was dominated by fear, the fear of failure and of weakness."
         How is fear portrayed as the catalyst for destruction and failure in the novel?

OR

    ii. "He had already chosen the title of the book, after much thought: The Pacification of the Primitive Tribes of the Lower Niger."
         Achebe conveys the destructive impact of ignorance on a complex society. Discuss.

2. *Pride and Prejudice* **by Jane Austen**

    i.   "Marriage is indeed a maneuvering business."
         Austen utilises satire to denounce the restrictive nature of marriage for women. Discuss.

OR

    ii. Austen exposes how individuality and integrity are sacrificed due to rigid expectations. Discuss.

3. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* **by Katherine Boo**

    i.   "How is it my wrong if the big people say it is right?"

         Boo's journalistic style presents the Annawadians not as passive victims of poverty, but as dignified investigators into the wrongs of their society. Discuss.

OR

    ii. "For every two people in Annawadi inching up, there was one in a catastrophic plunge."

         Boo exposes the futile struggle for individuals to maintain their humanity in a corrupted world. Discuss.

4. *In Cold Blood* **by Truman Capote**

    i.   "I knelt down beside Mr. Clutter, and the pain of kneeling—I thought of that goddamn dollar. Silver dollar. The shame. Disgust. And they'd told me never to come back to Kansas."

         Capote's non-fiction novel depicts Smith and Hickock as equally beyond redemption. Discuss.

OR

    ii. Capote's sympathetic characterisation of Smith and Hickock is designed to condemn a callous legal system. Discuss.

SECTION C - ARGUMENT & PERSUASIVE LANGUAGE

Instructions for Section C

Section C requires students to write an analysis of the ways in which argument and language are used to persuade others to share a point(s) of view.

Read the background information on this page and the material on pages 13, 14 and 15, and write an analytical response to the task below.

For the purposes of this task, the term 'language' refers to written, spoken and visual language.

Section C is worth one-third of the total marks for the examination.

Task

Write an analysis of the ways in which argument and written and visual language are used in the press release by the Director of The Obesity Policy Coalition, **Dr Henrietta Ewart,** to try and persuade others to share the points of view presented.

Background information

Australia has a serious problem with obesity, particularly among our children. There are well-established causes that governments have been reluctant to address, such as the high consumption of sugary drinks and the relentless advertising of high sugar products aimed at children. The public health lobby is demanding a sugar tax to reduce soft drink consumption "as a matter of priority". The question is whether evidence from other countries reveals that the policy will address and effectively tackle the obesity epidemic; or will it be just another tax slug that increases the cost of living?

EXTRA 2020 English Units 3&4 Trial Exam (1)
Solutions for Section C

Sample response 1 of 2

As advertising becomes a more insidious influence on people's lives it has grown increasingly difficult to ensure that industry does not act in ways that conflict with the public interest. In her confronting and stingingly critical press release, "Sugar tax can help tackle bitter toll of obesity," Dr Henrietta Ewart argues that the Australian government is not doing nearly enough to protect the public from the negative health effects of sugary drinks. Although this is a topic of broad concern, Ewart is more specifically addressing parents of young children, socially engaged voters and government policy makers in her effort to change community attitudes towards the adverse influence of the food industry. Her piece is accompanied by a graphic which satirises the concealed ways sugar damages people's lives and a cartoon exposing the short-sightedness of politicians regarding this issue.

Although Ewart initially establishes her authority regarding this issue as a "member of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention," she essentially opens with a rhetorical argument. Her headline employs a darkly humorous pun and a subtle reference to the death through the, "bitter toll of obesity" to prime the reader about the fatal consequences of an insufficiently regulated food industry. The word "toll" is most often used in relation to road fatalities and this is calculated to create a parallel between both issues in the minds of readers. In this way, Ewart evokes a sense of urgency in readers who may have previously been either apathetic or oblivious to the matter. Her subheading is framed as a question and she continues in this interrogative manner with further questions in order to drive home the breadth of the problem for society and urge her audience to query why Australians tolerate it damaging "our nation's health?" This confronting question along with her use of the inclusive pronoun may create a sense of common purpose against a looming threat as in the case of natural disasters when communities band together to confront an overwhelming threat. In this way she is linking obesity to broader public and political concerns than simply fitness or aesthetic preferences.

As she advances her contention, Ewart shifts to a more evidence-focused argument and emphatically advocates for the importance of recognising how cunning the sugar industry can be in concealing its product in food. She reveals that sugar "goes by a staggering 42 different names" in order to reveal the underhanded tactics producers employ to hide the word "sugar" from their lists of ingredients. The synonym "turbinado" is symbolic of one of many forms of sugar that will only be recognisable to "those who wear a lab-coat to work!" She employs an exclamation mark to emphasise her disbelief at the overt deceitfulness of such tactics and to encourage readers to be equally outraged. In order to drive home this idea, it is accompanied by a stylised image which dramatises the way that consumers are metaphorically drowning in hidden sugar. The composition centres on a man literally being buried under a mountain of sugar, suggesting that if the flow continues, he will be suffocated and killed. This creates a visual cue for readers to link the strong negative effects of sugar as a result of its overwhelming presence. The mound of sugar is positioned centrally in the image and directly above the stomach of the man symbolising the growing waistlines of the population which are the outward manifestation of the problem. Further to this, the background of the image features the faint outlines of a…

… Solution continued