



NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
EXEMPLAR 2008

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE: PAPER II

Time: 3 hours

Marks: 100

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

1. This paper consists of 6 pages.
 2. Questions must be answered in ALL THREE SECTIONS.
 3. Begin each section on a new page. Do not copy down headings for your answers. Copy down only the question numbers, making sure they are accurate. You may answer the questions in whatever order you wish, but answers must be numbered exactly as the questions are numbered.
 4. Do not hesitate to give your own judgements. Attempt to create space in which your own voice can be evident. The examiners will judge your answers on your understanding of and insight into given texts and will also assess the competence with which your answers are expressed.
 5. Be guided by the number of marks allocated to each question. Aim at concise answers that give relevant information.
 6. It is in your own interests to write legibly and to present your work neatly.
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SECTION A SHAKESPEARE - OTHELLO

Answer ONE of the following questions. The length of each of your responses should be approximately 350 - 400 words. Remember that your response must be preceded by a **one page plan** of what you intend to do in your essay.

Your knowledge of **Othello**, and your ability to plan, structure and substantiate your stance will be assessed.

1. *'Throughout Shakespeare's tragedy **Othello** there is a steady undercurrent of sexism. It is originating from not one, but rather various male characters in the play, who manifest prejudicial, discriminatory attitudes towards women...'* **Robert Salario**

Consider the above views and judge to what extent you agree with them. (30)

OR

2. *'The real criminal in **Othello** is not Iago but Othello himself.'*

Decide whether you consider this to be a fair assessment of the play. (30)

OR

- 3.



Read the description of a recent Royal Shakespeare Theatre production of **Othello**. Design and describe the role that the jazz piano would play in the production in order to communicate the concerns of the play most powerfully. (30)

30 marks

SECTION B SATURDAY or THINGS FALL APART

Write a literary essay on ONE of the following topics. Your essay should be approximately 600 words in length. Close and relevant references to the texts in question are essential.

4. • In his introduction to **Saturday**, Ian McEwan quotes Saul Bellow who refers to 'the ... failure of ...hopes.'
- In their article, 'A Critical Humanism', Mbembe and Posel argue that we need to embrace 'a politics of hope.'
- In an interview with **Time** magazine, McEwan argues that there is 'room for optimism'.

Decide whether **Saturday** is a text about hope **or** hopelessness. (30)

OR

5. The poem, 'Dover Beach,' by Matthew Arnold plays a pivotal role in the novel's climax:

*Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle
and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.*

Evaluate how the poem supports our understanding of the final concerns of the novel. (30)

OR

6. '*Chinua Achebe creates a coherent picture of coherence being lost, of the tragic consequences of the African-European collision,*' Robert McDowell. In a carefully constructed argument, evaluate whether the quote holds true for **Things Fall Apart**. (30)

OR

7. It has been argued that **Things Fall Apart** presents an oppressive and male-dominated view of Nigeria. Women do not appear to be fully rounded characters. Judge to what extent you agree with this assertion. (30)

30 marks

SECTION C TRANSACTIONAL WRITING

Answer TWO of the following questions. The body of your response should be approximately 300 words in length. Remember to pay attention to register and purpose.

8. ***Sandton, Johannesburg*** – *The lights dimmed. Couples skated purposefully onto the ice. And at the command of an unseen DJ, teenaged lips touched in defiance of what even authorities here have grudgingly come to call 'the Kissing Law.'*

This year, the government passed the so-called 'Kissing Law' amidst much controversy. This led to numerous articles and 'kissathons'. Write a 'tongue-in-cheek' email to the speaker of the South African parliament in which you express your reaction to the issue. (20)

OR



9. As a teacher, you have just observed the two boys pictured above. Write a letter to their parents in which you sensitively express your concerns for the boys' future. (30)

OR

10. You have been given the task of creating an advertisement for a new restaurant. The restaurant has not yet opened, but promises to be alternative. The envisioned clientele are young adults from a middle to high income South African urban context who would describe themselves as unconventional. You have been told to use the visuals below. Write a proposal to your manager outlining how you will use each visual.

A.



B.



C.



OR

11. South Africans are often praised for representing success in areas of cultural diversity and tolerance. Write an editorial for your school newspaper in which you make a plea (on behalf of the youth of South Africa) for this vision to be translated into reality. (30)

OR

12. Imagine that you are a Grade 12 Life Orientation teacher. Choose ONE of the characters in **Othello** and write a memorandum to the IEB that describes how you would use that character to teach life lessons. (30)

30 marks

TOTAL FOR THIS PAPER: 100 MARKS