

External assessment 2025

Question book

Literature

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

Section 1

Instructions

- There are two questions for each of the eight texts.
 - Respond to **one** of the questions for your chosen text in the form of an analytical essay.
 - Respond in 800–1000 words in the response book.
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***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**

- a) In the novel, the character of Denver symbolises healing. Discuss.

OR

- b) In chapter 20, Sethe says, ‘I wouldn’t draw breath without my children’.
Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

***Catch-22* by Joseph Heller**

- a) In the novel, Heller represents Major Major as a mediocre man. Discuss.

OR

- b) In chapter 12, Yossarian says to Clevinger, ‘The enemy is anybody who’s going to get you killed, no matter *which* side he’s on’.
Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

***Hamlet* by William Shakespeare**

- a) In the play, Shakespeare portrays Polonius as responsible for the deaths of his children. Discuss.

OR

- b) In the final scene of the play, Laertes says, ‘Exchange forgiveness with me, noble Hamlet’.
Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

***In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote**

- a) In the non-fiction novel, Perry is represented as neither good nor evil. Discuss.

OR

- b) In the opening of the non-fiction novel, Capote says, ‘At the time not a soul in sleeping Holcomb heard them — four shotgun blasts that, all told, ended six human lives’.
Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

***King Lear* by William Shakespeare**

- a) In the play, Shakespeare represents Edgar and Edmund as more similar than they are different. Discuss.

OR

- b) In Act V, Scene III, Lear says to Cordelia, 'When thou dost ask me blessing, I'll kneel down and ask of thee forgiveness'.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

***Stasiland* by Anna Funder**

- a) In the non-fiction novel, Frau Paul sees herself as neither a hero nor a dissident. Discuss.

OR

- b) In chapter 23, Funder says, 'The Wall persists in Stasi men's minds as something they hope might one day come again, and in their victims' minds too, as a terrifying possibility'.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

***Terra Nullius* by Claire G. Coleman**

- a) In the novel, Coleman represents Johnny Star as finding acceptance from humans more than his own kind. Discuss.

OR

- b) In chapter 14, Coleman says, 'No matter where they had come from before, whatever culture or ancient human race they had been part of, Esperance's people were one mob, one people, now'.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë**

- a) In the novel, Brontë represents Nelly as unreliable in her accounts of the Earnshaw household. Discuss.

OR

- b) In chapter 17, Isabella says, 'Treachery and violence are spears pointed at both ends — they wound those who resort to them, worse than their enemies'.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

References

- Brontë, E 1847, *Wuthering Heights*, Penguin Books, London, ISBN 9780-141-04520-7.
- Capote, T 1962, *In Cold Blood*, Penguin Books, London, ISBN 978-0141-03839-1.
- Coleman, CG 2017, *Terra Nullius*, Hachette, Sydney, ISBN 9780733641923.
- Funder, A 2002, *Stasiland*, Penguin Random House Australia, ISBN 978-0-14-379252-9
- Heller, J 1955, *Catch-22*, Vintage Random House, London, ISBN 978-0-09-952912-5.
- Morrison, T 2010, *Beloved*, Vintage Books, London, ISBN 978-0-099-54097-7
- Shakespeare, W 1980, *Hamlet*, Penguin Classics Random House, London, ISBN 978-0-141-39650-7.
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