

2019 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD EXAMINATION
Theme: Hidden Truth
HOME LANGUAGE PAPER

DATE: Tuesday 5 March 2019

TIME ALLOCATION: 3 HOURS
+ up to 30 minutes' reading time.

TEXT: *A Twist in the tale*

TOTAL MARKS: 100

You may have with you in the examination venue:

- pens, pencils, rulers and erasers
- the anthology *A twist in the tale* (It may contain underlining or highlighting but no notes)
- your dictionary

You may **not** have the Study Guide or any other paper with notes, documents, cell phones or information retrieval systems of any kind.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write all answers in the Examination Booklet provided.
2. Write the section and number of the question above each answer, and start each question at the top of a new page.
3. On the cover of the Examination Booklet, please clearly indicate:
 - your school's Olympiad Exam Number
 - your personal Exam Number
 - each **section** and the **number of the question** that you have answered from that section (e.g. Section A: 4 & Section B:3 & Section C)

Do NOT write your name, your address or your school's name on the cover, or anywhere in your Examination Booklet.

4. Answer:
 - a) One question from **SECTION A**
 - b) One question from **SECTION B**
 - c) ALL the questions from **SECTION C**

Regarding **SECTION A**

We invite you to express your own ideas in response to the questions. There are no model answers, but do remember that you are expected to refer liberally to the text, demonstrating a prepared and personal response to the material contained therein.

NB: You are invited to draw from your extended reading, but remember that the main focus of your essay should be upon texts contained in the anthology.

We value your responses. Enjoy the experience!

CAUTION for SECTION B: You may not answer a question in Section B on an author whose writing you discussed in Section A. If you do so, your answer will not be considered. Choose your options wisely.

DO NOT TURN OVER THIS PAGE UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GIVES YOU PERMISSION.

Select ONE of the following options and write an essay of 450 – 500 words in response to your chosen topic. ESSAYS IN EXCESS OF THE PRESCRIBED LENGTH WILL BE PENALISED ACCORDINGLY.

REMEMBER TO QUOTE OR REFER CLOSELY TO THE TEXT TO SUBSTANTIATE YOUR IDEAS.

NOTE: When you answer Section B, you may not answer a question on an author whose writing you discuss here in Section A. If you do so, your answer will not be considered.

QUESTION 1 Guy de Maupassant: The necklace

“The necklace” was first published in 1884 in French. Write an essay in which you justify why this antiquated and perhaps irrelevant short story **should OR should not** have been included in the English Olympiad anthology a century and a half later, and studied by learners at the southern tip of Africa.

(50)

QUESTION 2 MC Vassanji: Breaking loose

In “Breaking loose”, Yasmin Rajan is caught between her family and cultural ties on the one hand, and her growing love and admiration for Daniel Akoto on the other. Discuss her dilemma, the issues she deals with and the truth she discovers.

(50)

QUESTION 3 Doris Lessing: A sunrise on the veld
Francois Bloemhof: When the world began turning the other way

In both “A sunrise on the veld” and “When the world began turning the other way”, the main characters – both boys – reach that pivotal point when they start to become men.

Write an essay in which you discuss how and why these changes come about. What do they learn?

(50)

QUESTION 4 Christopher Hope: Learning to fly
Marita van der Vyver: She doesn't speak
Melvin Whitebooi: Looking for Johnny September

The stories, “Learning to fly”, “She doesn't speak” and “Looking for Johnny September”, are all written in the aftermath of the apartheid era. Choose **two** of these stories and discuss what truths and moral lessons we, as South Africans, may learn from them to make our country a better place.

(50)

QUESTION 5

Discuss the themes of personal growth and hope in any two stories of your choice from this year's Olympiad anthology.

(50)

QUESTION 6 Patrick Waldo Davis: Wings for Bulbie

“His arrival in our little town had started not only a battle with our own consciences, but also with the beliefs of our parents.”

Write an essay in which you describe how the learners “battle[d] with [their] own consciences” and changed their opinion about Bulbie. What hidden insights or truths did they learn?

(50)

QUESTION 7

These short stories “give you the opportunity to study different styles of writing.” In your appreciation of the writing in this anthology, you may have felt drawn to the style of some writers far more than to that of others. Select two stories, the styles of which you admire, and examine them for the qualities you found distinctive, exceptional or simply intriguing.

(50)

TOTAL MARKS SECTION A [50]

Kindly turn the page for Section B

Select **ONE** of the following options. Remember that your answer will be assessed based on the appropriateness of your register and diction. Your answer should be between 180-220 words in length.

CAUTION: YOU MAY NOT ANSWER A QUESTION ON AN AUTHOR WHOSE WRITING YOU DISCUSSED IN SECTION A. IF YOU DO SO, YOUR ANSWER WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

QUESTION 1 Guy de Maupassant: The necklace

Pretend that “The necklace” is a “Soapie” and that the final words of Mme Forestier are the “cliff-hanger” upon which the viewers will hang with bated breath. Write the first scene of the **next episode as a dialogue**, giving some sort of indication of what might happen next. (20)

QUESTION 2 Somerset Maugham: The luncheon

Pretend that you are the narrator in “The luncheon” and write a **blog** after your luncheon date. Show two comments from your followers. (20)

QUESTION 3 Es'kia Mphahlele: The suitcase

Write a short **prose piece** from your own point of view in which you contemplate the role of fate and/or providence in our lives. You must make some references to “The suitcase”. (20)

QUESTION 4

Write only the body of a **letter** to the Minister of Education in South Africa in which you argue that the genre of the short story ought to replace the novel as a prescribed work for the grade 12 English HL examination. You must use this Olympiad anthology as a reference. (20)

QUESTION 5 Patrick Waldo Davis: Wings for Bulbie

Imagine that you are the grade 12 narrator of “Wings for Bulbie”. You have been asked by Mrs Smith (Bulbie’s widow) to say a few words at his funeral. Write the **eulogy**. (20)

QUESTION 6 Francois Bloemhoff: When the world began turning the other way

Deeply disturbed you, as Alan, find yourself alone in your room after the parent-teacher-student evening. You cannot seem to rid yourself of the taunting feelings that plague your mind. Eventually you are moved to write the lyrics of a song or poem.

Your answer should be in the form of a lyrical **poem**, rhymed or free verse, approximately 20 lines long. (20)

TOTAL MARKS SECTION B [20]

Kindly turn the page for Section C

NB: There is no choice in this section. Answer ALL questions.

QUESTION 1: The focus is on Ambiguity

Explain the difference in meaning between the following pairs of sentences:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1.1 | Morris enjoys fresh strawberries and cream. | |
| 1.2 | Morris enjoys fresh strawberries, and cream. | 2 |
| 1.3 | Duck! | |
| 1.4 | Duck. | 2 |
| 1.5 | The passengers who wore their seatbelts survived the accident. | |
| 1.6 | The passengers, who wore their seatbelts, survived the accident. | 2 |
- /6/

QUESTION 2: The focus is on Punctuation and Capital Letters

Read the following extract taken from “Wings for Bulbie” by Patrick Waldo Davids and answer the questions below.

<p>“This odd, pot-bellied toppie a teacher? Our new Maths teacher? No ways, old pally, seems more like a first class weekend alcoholic to me. Supply him with a plug and a live wire and he’s a bulbie,” J.J., real trouble maker and the school’s Mathematics whizz, whispered as Bulbie introduced the maths syllabus.</p>	
<p>“Anything on your mind, Mister ... ?” Bulbie asked, looking J.J. level in the eye.</p>	5
<p>“John Jansen, Sir, but just plain J.J. for my <i>bras</i>. No, I was just saying: looks like a year of suffering,” J.J. retorted. The class sniggered.</p>	
<p>“Negative attitude, Mister J.J.,” Bulbie said and turned to the rest of the class. “To quote Bogart: I think it’s the start of a beautiful friendship, but then, it has to come from both sides.” He conveyed the message with appropriate hand movement.</p>	10
<p>Bulbie’s introduction of himself soon reached the bush telegraph – as happens in most small towns. His inevitable fall from grace soon became the latest jigsaw puzzle for the small-town toppies and aunties. You see, a drunkard-teacher, and what’s more, one that prided himself on it, simply had to succumb in a missionary town with prohibition bred to the bone. The only pieces in the puzzle were how, where and when.</p>	15

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 2.1 | There are three commas in line 1. | |
| 2.1.1 | Explain why the first one (after “odd”) is used. | 1 |
| 2.1.2 | Explain the use of the pair of commas in the third sentence in line 1. | 1 |
| 2.2 | How would the tone change if the two question marks in line 1 were replaced by exclamation marks? | 1 |
| 2.3 | What kind of word do we call the hyphenated adjective “pot-bellied” (line 1)? | 1 |
| 2.4 | What is the correct abbreviation for Mister? Write only the abbreviation. | 1 |

2.5	Explain why the first letter in the word “bulbie” is written in the lower case the first time it is used, and then with a capital letter (upper case) the second time it is used in line 3.	2
2.6	The writer has used three dots (...) in line 5.	
2.6.1	What do we call these three dots?	1
2.6.2	Explain why they are used here.	1
2.7	Why are full stops used after the initials “J.J.” (line 6)?	1
2.8	Explain the use of the colon in line 6.	1
2.9	Explain the use of the dash in line 11.	1
2.10	Why is it correct to hyphenate “drunkard-teacher” (line 13), but would be incorrect to hyphenate “drunken teacher”?	2
		/14/

QUESTION 3: The focus is on Correction of Punctuation Marks

Rewrite the following sentences correctly. Write out the whole sentence. Do not simply write the corrections.

3.1	My mother often does on line shopping.	2
3.2	She bought coffee, tea, sugar, etc and took them to her grandmother.	2
3.3	WORS ROLLS – a meal in it’self (sign in front of a stand)	2
3.4	Who’s pencil is this?	2
3.5	Potatoes and avo’s are cheap at the moment.	2
		/10/

TOTAL SECTION C [30]

GRAND TOTAL MARKS = 100