

DE BEERS

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

2010 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD
Character: Analysis and Motivation

Tuesday, 2 March 2010

TOTAL MARKS: 100

TIME: 2 - 3 HOURS

THEME: Character: Analysis and Motivation

TEXT: Under their skin and in their shoes

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer **ONE** question from **Section A** and **ONE** question from **SECTION B - TWO** in all.
2. Your ideas should be expressed as clearly as possible.
3. We invite you to express your own ideas in response to the questions - there are no "right" answers.
4. Write the section and number of the question above each answer, and start each question at the top of a new page.
5. On the cover of the examination book, please **clearly** indicate:
 - a) your school's Olympiad number
 - b) your personal examination number
 - c) each section and the questions you have answered

Do **NOT** write your name or your school's name on the cover

ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!

SECTION A

60 MARKS

Answer ONE of the following questions.

There is no “ideal length” for a response to Section A. However, the better candidates generally write between 3 – 5 foolscap (A4) pages.

1. An Almighty Chat

God and the Devil are sitting, talking about Niklaas Dampers, when Koba Nooi enters and sits down to join them...Write this dialogue. You may wish to bring other characters mentioned in the anthology into the discussion.

2. The Blame Game

Timi, of *The Suitcase*, is sentenced to time in jail for his actions. His wife sends a letter to him when he is sent away. Write this letter, as well as Timi's response to her.

3. He's Just Not That Into You

After Martha (*The Little Pet*) is dumped by Francis Senior, she reads the book *He's Just Not That Into You*. Some weeks later she meets with her friends Polly Mooney and Toonje Dampers. After some serious shopping, they stop to have cocktails and talk about men. Write this discussion.

4. “Slumdog Millionaire”... or not?

Imagine that a film has been made of the Loisel's life, called “Millionaire Slumdog”, which explores her downfall from (relative) high society to struggling working class. It details a reversal of fortunes opposite to that which occurs in the famous Bollywood film.

Write the final scene of “Millionaire Slumdog”, which occurs after the final scene in the short story. In this scene we see Madame Loisel's reaction to Madame Forestier's news about the necklace. Use an appropriate dialogue format.

5. Love Story

Write a chapter of a “bodice-ripper” or Mills and Boon-type novel which tells part of Andries van Reenen’s and Toonje’s story. A definition of “bodice-ripper” has been supplied below. Please ensure that your writing is **not** overly explicit and that you focus on character development.

bodice-ripper /noun/ Also written as bodice ripper
A romantic novel or film, especially one with an historical setting, with the plot featuring the seduction of the heroine.
Adapted from: The Oxford Dictionary of New Words

6. Legal Eagles

Imagine the bachelor of *The Story-teller* is a lawyer, who is called in to cross-examine the characters in *The Suitcase*. He examines the old man from the bus, Timi and the mother of the deceased child (imagine she has been arrested) in court. Write up this legal scene in the form of a short story.

7. The Answer Is At The End

The day of the party arrived. Madame Loisel was a success. Imagine that Mathilde had **not** lost the necklace. Create a new ending for the story, with Schalk Lourens as the story teller, telling the story in his own style.

8. I’ll Meet You On The Road

Write a short story in which Mr Doran, who has run away from Dublin to South Africa, meets Niklaas on the Platkops – Philipdorp road, just after Niklaas has read the letter from Toontjie. Both men must remain in character.

9. I Dropped In To Tell You A Story

Francis senior grows uneasy at the bond between his son and the rabbit. He asks his older brother, who is a bachelor renowned for his ability to tell “improper stories” to speak to Francis junior. Write the story that the bachelor would tell Francis.

10. Under Discussion

An interviewer from a top class arts programme interviews the author of one of the stories from the anthology. His opening question is, "What were you trying to achieve by writing this story?" Write the text of the interview.

11. A Different Blame Game

"I have no sympathy. Mathilde and Timi got what they deserved." Respond to this statement in any suitable way.

12. The Child Speaks

Francis Junior is now seventeen years old and finishing his education at a Juvenile Detention Centre. Write the first chapter of his biography, which is headed "I knew you didn't like your baby."

13. A Different Point Of View

The Suitcase is written from the omniscient point of view, but we only see into the mind of Timi. Write three relevant passages in which you observe the events through the eyes of the woman who left the suitcase on the bus, the old man who accused Timi of stealing it, and the arresting officer.

SECTION B

40 MARKS

Answer ONE of the following questions.

There is no “ideal length” for a response to Section B. However, the better candidates generally write between 2 – 4 foolscap (A4) pages.

1. Olympiad Dating Services...for an Olympic Match-Making Experience!

Several of the characters in the anthology could use being set-up with a special someone! Draw up two profiles, written for the purpose of “selling” two of the characters online. Choose from the following characters: the bachelor from *The Storyteller*; Martha from *The Little Pet*; Madame Loisel from *The Necklace*; Mr Doran from *The Boarding House* or Grieta from *Willem Prinsloo’s Peach Brandy*. If any of the characters are already in a marriage, you may assume that s/he has separated from the spouse. *You may wish to use the format in the example from Addendum A.* Think about the purpose of such an advertisement before you start writing.

AND

Imagine that the initial dating situation has not worked well and the two characters have instead decided to join a speed dating service. Place any two of the above characters in conversation at a “speed date”. This conversation will only be about 5 minutes in total so that characters will have to get chatting quickly. *Use the information in Addendum B as a guide.*
We suggest that you do not attempt this question unless you are comfortable with the formats required.

2. Life Beyond the Page

Create a life for the bachelor beyond the few facts and impressions we gain of him in *The Story-teller*. This answer can take any form you choose, but remember to place him in a likely and detailed context. Possible formats include: FBI report, another short story or a long poem.

3. Inside Toonje's Head

Write the poem Toonje would have written, entitled "Marrying the Fool to Save the Master"

AND

Write Toonje's letter to Saartje, in which she lays out all that has happened.

4. Mrs Mooney's Guest House – your home away from home

Write two comments in the guest book of Mrs Mooney's guest house, in which two characters from other stories in the anthology write down their opinions after staying at the house. Choose from: Martha (*The Little Pet*), Koba Nooi (*The Sinner*), Schalk Louwrens (*Willem Prinsloo's Peach Brandy*), or the bachelor (*The Storyteller*).

AND

Design a brochure for Mrs Mooney's guest house.

5. Willem Prinsloo's Plan of Action

Willem Prinsloo is preparing for his party. Write the following **three** pieces:

- a. A short, fatherly chat he has with his daughter the day before the party;
- b. Grieta's testimonial from her finishing school, written by the headmistress of that school; and
- c. The invitation Willem sends to all of his guests.

6. It's In The News

Write the following two newspaper reports. A "gutter journalism" style report on the story of Niklaas leaving his wife for Koba AND an editorial style comment, written by Dominee Welthagen, after Niklaas's return.

7. Healthy Advice

Niklaas Dampers has been invited by *Men's Health* magazine to be a guest writer. Produce his double page article. You may add any other details or items which you feel relevant.

8. In The Sandpit

Francis junior (*The Little Pet*) and Cyril (*The Story-teller*) meet in the sandpit at playschool. Write their conversation in dialogue form, titled *Grownups are stupid*.

9. The “Not So Secret” Diary Of...

Write the following three diary entries:

- a. Mathilde, the night before the ball
- b. Polly, the morning after Mr Doran proposed marriage
- c. Grieta, after the dance.

10. A Moving Experience

Create the following three items:

- a. One of the stories from the anthology is made into a short film. Create a poster for the film, with all necessary details.
- b. Write a promotional article for the film.
- c. Write a negative review of the film by a critic.

PLEASE TURNOVER FOR ADDENDUM A & B

Addendum A

Handle – HedgeCraig357

Name – Craig

Age – 32

Location – Los Angeles

Seeking – Ambitious, career-oriented woman

Interests – Building my business, the History Channel, golf

About Me

Here I am all shiny and new to online dating. I finished grad school in '06 and since then I've spent little time in the bars or out and about meeting new people. In fact, if you don't work downtown and aren't interested in hedge funds, then there's no way I would've met you before now.

Needless to say, my job has sort of overtaken my life and now I'm trying to get back on the bus and into the world of dating. First stop? [Match.com](#). I'd be lying if I said I didn't want a relationship, I do. But I'm not about to just jump into one. I'm much more interested in meeting someone for a fun date and seeing where that takes us. I don't jump into decisions at work and there's no way I'll jump into a relationship either. For now, I'm interested in going out, having fun, and getting to know someone who will respect my job and all the time it requires of me. If it turns out we make better friends, great, and if it's more than that, then even better.

So here's the real questions. *Do you know what a hedge fund is?*

Adapted from <http://www.datingtales.net/2009/02/sample-online-dating-profile-craig-32/>

Addendum B

Once the speed dating gets underway normally all the females will be seated at a specific table for the duration of the event. The bachelors will then sit down at a table and the two will usually have anywhere from three to five minutes to talk and briefly get to know one another. At the end of the pre-determined time limit a bell will ring or a whistle will be blown indicating it is time for the bachelors to move on to the next table. Both people will then discreetly circle "yes" or "no" on their date card to denote whether or not they would like to see the dater they met again. As the bachelors move to the next table the process begins again with a new potential mate. There is an intermission during the party to give daters the opportunity to get a drink or use the restroom. At the end of the event the daters will have met between ten and twenty potential matches depending on the size of the party and time constraints.

http://www.ehow.com/how-does_4564299_speed-dating-work.html