

2017 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD EXAM
Theme: Then and Now

FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE PAPER

DATE: Tuesday, 7 March 2017

TIME ALLOCATION: 3 HOURS

TEXT: *Staying Alive*

TOTAL MARKS: 100

You may have with you in the examination venue:

- pens, pencils, rulers and erasers
- the anthology *Staying Alive* (may contain underlining or highlighting but no notes)
- your dictionary

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All answers are to be written in the Examination Booklet.
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 Centre Number
 - your personal Examination Number
 - each **section** and the **number of the question** that you have answered from that section (e.g. Section A: 4 & Section B: 3)
 - **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, using your own voice – there are no 'right' answers in the strict sense of the word. In other words, there are no 'model' answers. However, the better responses tend to refer to the anthology, and quote from it.

WE VALUE YOUR ANSWERS, SO ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!

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

Select ONE of the following options and write an essay - not longer than 500 words - in response to your chosen topic.

1. Richards Gere once said, *"I am old but I am forever young at heart. We are always the same age inside."*

Henrietta Rose-Innes put this in a different way in the following statement:

"It's always disconcerting to look back and realise how little the mental furniture has changed".

Discuss these comments with reference to the work of Henrietta Rose-Innes as found in this anthology. (50)

2. 'A good storyteller is the conscience-keeper of a nation' Gulzar, poet, lyricist and film director (born 1934). Do you agree? Discuss with reference to *Safe Home* by Nadia Davids. (50)

3. *My life still means nothing – without you.*

(From *Mathematician* by Karen Jennings)

We expect love to be an overriding theme in the works of young writers, particularly in their poetry. Therefore, it may be surprising that there is relatively little about romantic love in this anthology. With this comment in mind, explore the theme of love found in the work of Karen Jennings. How does the perspective change (if at all) in her later short story, *Sarah Begins?*

(50)

4. *Not a superstar, actor or model
Not a face to 'launch a thousand ships'
No starched collars, ties or jackets
Not afraid of eating boerewors and chips*
(From *Madiba* by Karen Jeynes)

The writers featured in this anthology show that it is possible to be light-hearted even when discussing serious issues or famous and revered public icons. Some people may think that this is disrespectful. What do you think? Using the two poems about Mandela in this anthology as your starting point, discuss the use and purpose of this humorous tone. You may also refer to other examples found in the anthology, provided you use the poems about Mandela as the basis of your argument. (50)

5. *To learn how to speak
With the voices of the land*
(From *To learn how to speak* by Jeremy Cronin)

The writers in this anthology have a love-hate relationship with the South African landscape (this includes cityscapes). In the light of this statement, discuss at least three poems or passages from the anthology that reflect or refute this ambivalent attitude. (50)

[50]

Select ONE of the following options. Remember your answer will be assessed based upon appropriateness of register and diction. Your answers may be between 180 – 200 words in length.

1. Henrietta Rose-Innes describes a plane crash in her poem, *The Plane*, in your anthology. Write a diary entry by the person who witnessed the plane crash. The diary entry should include the emotions that the eye witness felt as well as the implications for all those involved and their families. (20)
2. “I remember you – do you still like writing, or have you grown out of it?” Write a dialogue between Nadia Davids and a previous classmate whom she meets at a school reunion. (20)
3. Karen Jeynes writes a beautiful poem about the character of Nelson Mandela in her poem titled, *Madiba*, in your anthology. Write a dialogue for the conversation between you and Nelson Mandela. Think of what questions you would like to ask him and how he would possibly respond. You could also include how he has made an impact in your life. (20)
4. Pretend that you are Mamma in *Sarah Begins*. Write a letter to Sarah, trying to explain your view of what happened. (20)
5. There are two individuals in court presenting cases on the state of Johannesburg. One individual should describe the negative aspects of Johannesburg and the other individual should describe the positive aspects of Johannesburg. Refer to the poem, *This City*, in your anthology. (20)
6. You have been inspired by *English Alive* and would like to advertise it at your school – and encourage contributions from your schoolmates. Design an advertisement, **especially for your school**, to be placed on the school’s noticeboard. (NB Do not copy the advertisement on pg. ...). Give some details about the authors featured in *English Alive* as well as in the anthology, and why their work should be an inspiration to other young writers. (20)

[20]

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

1. Rank each of the following sets of sentences from the **most formal** to the **least formal** in register. Simply write down the letters in that order.

1.1

- A. We regret to inform you that ...
- B. We are sorry to inform you that ...
- C. We are sorry to say that ...

1.2

- A. Thanks a lot for telling me about this.
- B. Thanks for bringing this to my attention.
- C. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention.

1.3

- A. I am very unhappy about the service they gave me.
- B. I am extremely dissatisfied with the service I received.
- C. I'm not happy with the service I received.

1.4

- A. I have masses of experience in this area.
- B. I have considerable experience in this area.
- C. I have a lot of experience in this area.

1.5

- A. How's life?
- B. How are you?
- C. How's it going?

(5 x1 = 5)

2. Consider the following telephone conversation snippets and then identify two things:
- 1. what type of relationship each conversation represents (whether the people know each other or not);
 - 2. whether the language is formal or informal.

Set out your answers in the format below and indicate your choice of answers with a cross:

	Known person	Unknown person	Formal	Informal
2.1				
2.2				
2.3				
2.4				
2.5				

Here are the conversations:

- 2.1 How you doing? I was just wondering if you used the photocopier earlier today?

- 2.2 Listen, Moira, I saw that email earlier and I replied, so don't worry about it!
- 2.3 If you would like to leave your name and number, sir, I will ensure Mr Dlamini gets your message.
- 2.4 If you will just hold the line for one minute, please, I will check if she is at her desk.
- 2.5 Hi there, are you free to come round for drinks tonight?

(5 x 1 = 5)

3. Imagine that you are lucky enough to be an English teacher. You have set your class an assignment which required them to write a letter of application for a job. Below is part of one of the letters you receive to mark. Copy the extract onto your script and then do the following:

- (a) Ring six words or phrases that are inappropriate in terms of style. (6)
- (b) Write a comment of 20 - 30 words to the learner explaining why you have ringed those items. (5)

Dear Sir / Madam

I'm applying for the job you people advertised in the paper last week. It really appeals to me because it offers nice hours and suits my talents.

I have a degree in engineering and a diploma in marketing. I have tons of experience in the field.

4. Imagine that your school has just scored a surprising sports victory. You then comment on the event (with basically the same content)
- A. to your school principal, who missed the event;
- B. to you grandmother;
- C. in a report written for the school newspaper.

Each comment must be between 40 and 60 words. Make sure that you label the comments A, B and C respectively. (9)

[30]

GRAND TOTAL MARKS = 100