



# The 2021 English Olympiad

## *Theme: People and Personae*

### FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE EXAMINATION

**DATE:** Tuesday 16 March 2021

**TIME ALLOCATION:** 3 hours, and up to 30 minutes of supervised reading time

**TEXT:** The anthology 'This is My Story'

**TOTAL MARKS:** 100

#### **EXAMINATION REGULATIONS:**

This examination is to be written under normal examination conditions, with full invigilation.

Candidates may have the following with them in the examination venue:

- pens, pencils, rulers and erasers
- the anthology 'This is My Story' (which may contain underlining or highlighting, but no notes)
- a dictionary

During the examination, candidates may not have access to the Olympiad Study Guide or any other notes, documents, cell phones or information retrieval systems of any kind.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

1. Please write clearly and legibly. Marks may be deducted for illegible handwriting.
2. Write all your answers in your Examination Answer Booklet.
3. Write the section and the number of the question above each of your answers.
4. Start each question at the top of a new page.
5. On the cover of the Examination Booklet, please clearly indicate:
  - your school's Olympiad Centre Number
  - your personal Examination Number
  - the **section** and **number** of **each of the questions** that you have answered

**NB - Do NOT write your name, your address or your school's name on the cover, or anywhere else in your Examination Answer Booklet.**

6. You are expected to answer:
  - a) one question from **SECTION A**
  - b) one question from **SECTION B**
  - c) one question 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 model answers, but do remember that you are expected to refer liberally to the relevant texts and to provide your personal response to the material contained in the anthology and to the question that you have chosen to answer.

**NB - The main focus of your essay should be upon the texts contained in the anthology, but you may also draw upon and refer to your extended reading.**

***We value your responses. Enjoy the experience.***

Select ONE of the following options and write an essay of 450 to 550 words in response to your chosen topic. Candidates will be penalised if they exceed the prescribed maximum length.

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

**Question A1:** 'On The Blue Train' by Geraldine Aron

Sarah Ban Breathnach says the following in *Moving on Creating Your House of Belonging with Simple Abundance*: 'It doesn't matter whom you love or where you move from or to, you always take yourself with you. If you don't know who you are, or if you've forgotten or misplaced her, then you'll always feel as if you don't belong.'

It is evident in the dramatic monologue, 'On the Blue Train', that Kathy feels as if she does not belong.

Using 'On the Blue Train' as a foundation for your essay, discuss the various events that cause her to feel that way by quoting from the text. Do you think that Kathy has lost her sense of self? Do you think that she will return? (50)

**Question A2:** 'Mommy' by Mangoliso Kuposani  
'The Call' by Gabeba Baderoon

Mitch Albom says the following in *Tuesdays with Morrie*: 'The truth is, when our mothers held us, rocked us, stroked our heads - none of us ever got enough of that. We all yearn in some way to return to those days when we were completely taken care of - unconditional love, unconditional attention. Most of us didn't get enough.'

Both poems, 'Mommy' and 'The Call', speak about the relationship between mother and child.

Using 'Mommy' and 'The Call' as a foundation for your essay, discuss the differences and similarities of the poems. (50)

**Question A3:**

The theme of hope is prevalent in many of the texts in the anthology. Select two or three texts that contain this theme and write an essay which examines how it is showcased in each text. (50)

**Question A4:** 'Legal Alien' by Crystal Rutangye Butungi

Rom Pass says the following about barriers: 'As we grow in our consciousness, there will be more compassion and more love, and then the barriers between people, between religions, between nations will begin to fall. Yes, we have to beat down the separateness.'

In the short story, 'Legal Alien', the protagonist is faced with many barriers when she returns to Uganda.

Using 'Legal Alien' as a foundation for your essay, discuss the barriers that she faces. Which barrier/s has the protagonist overcome? With which barrier/s does she struggle? (50)

**Question A5:**

James Scott Bell says the following about successful movies and books: 'A writing teacher once told me that the most successful movies and books were simple plots about complex characters. You should be able to articulate your concept in a couple of lines.'

In a well-structured essay motivate which character or persona from the anthology is most complex and intriguing to you. (50)

**Question A6:** 'New Horizons' by Miriam Tlali  
'Legal Alien' by Crystal Butungi  
'Rejection' by Mariama Ba

Victor Hugo says the following about education: 'He who opens a school door, closes a prison.'

All three of the texts touch on the importance of education and further education. Choose three (50) characters (one from each story) and explain how education benefits each of them.

**Subtotal: 50 Marks**

<b>SECTION B: Creative Responses</b>	<b>30 Marks</b>
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Select ONE of the following options. Remember that your answer will be assessed based on the appropriateness of your register and diction. The format of your response should also be in line with the required text. Your answer should be between 200 and 250 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. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, ADDRESS A QUESTION WHICH REQUIRES YOU TO INCLUDE A GROUP OF AUTHORS, ONE OF WHICH YOU DISCUSSED IN SECTION A.**

**Question B1:** 'On the Blue Train' by Geraldine Aron  
'Tune In Again Next Week' by Carla Lever

Imagine that Kathy and Store-All Stan have been set up on a blind date. Write a dialogue which (30) captures a few minutes of this blind date.

**Question B2:** 'The Call' by Gabeba Baderoon

Having packed up your belongings and spoken to your mother, you are now on your way to (30) your 'new place'. Write a travelogue of this experience.

**Question B3:** 'Autobiography' by Nazim Hikmet

You have been awarded a Nobel Prize for literature. Write your acceptance speech which you (30) will deliver at your award ceremony.

**Question B4:** 'Legal Alien' by Crystal Butungi

You are the narrator of 'Legal Alien' and back in Australia you have decided to write an article (30) for a local newspaper about life in Uganda. Write a newspaper article in which you debunk some of the myths many Australians believe.

**Question B5:** 'Rejection' by Mariama Ba

You are the narrator of 'Rejection'. Write a heartfelt letter to Binetou, your husband's second (30) wife, in which you let her know exactly how you feel about her and her situation.

**Question B6:** 'On the Blue Train' by Geraldine Aron

You are Kathy. Write a diary entry in which you talk about life back in England and your (30) thoughts about South Africa.

**Subtotal: 30 Marks**

Several of the texts in the anthology have open-ended conclusions. Keeping to the genre and style of the original, select ONE text in the following list of options, and write an alternative or a rounded-off ending. Your ending should be between 180 and 220 words in length.

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

- C1.** 'On the Blue Train' by Geraldine Aron (20)
- C2.** 'Mommy' by Mangaliso Koposani (20)
- C3.** 'The Call' by Gabeba Baderoon (20)
- C4.** 'When He Spoke to Me of Love' by M.A. Mokhomomo (20)
- C5.** 'New Horizons' by Miriam Tlali (20)
- C6.** 'Legal Alien' by Crystal Butungi (20)
- C7.** 'Tune In Again Next Week' by Carla Lever (20)

**Subtotal: 20 Marks**

**GRAND TOTAL: 100 MARKS**



## **The National English Olympiad**

is a joint project of the  
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