

2016 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

HOME LANGUAGE

A Journey into Darkness

DATE: Tuesday, 1 March 2016

TIME ALLOCATION: 3 HOURS

TEXT: *The Darkness in Man's Heart*

TOTAL MARKS: 100

You may have with you in the examination venue:

- pens, pencils, rulers and erasers
- the anthology, *The Darkness in Man's Heart* (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: All answers are to be written in the Examination Booklet.

Answer:

1. one question from **SECTION A1**
2. one question from **SECTION A2**
3. **ALL** the questions from **SECTION B**

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. However, the better responses tend to refer to the anthology, and quote from it.
- Write the section and number of the question above each answer, and start each question at the top of a new page.
- 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 A1: 3 & Section A2: 6)

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

WE VALUE YOUR ANSWERS, SO ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!

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

SECTION A1: DISCURSIVE ESSAY

(50 MARKS)

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

1. Maleficent, in the movie of the same name, observes that, "There is evil in this world". In the light of these words, discuss at least three characters from different stories in the anthology and the polarizing effect that coming face to face with evil has on them. (50)

2. The proverbial saying, "Revenge is a dish best served cold", means vengeance is more satisfying when it is exacted in cold blood. With reference to *Hopfrog* and *Frankenstein*, discuss the dehumanizing effect of the malevolent plotting for revenge. (50)

3. In a beautiful poem entitled *Prayer before Birth*, Louis MacNeice writes:

Oh hear me

*Let not the man who is beast or who thinks he is God,
come near me...*

Using the idea expressed in MacNeice's words, write a discursive essay in which you carefully examine the hubris* displayed by Dr Frankenstein in creating his 'monster' and the bestial* degeneration* of Mr Kurtz. (50)

(* No Glossary is provided. You might wish to look up these words.)

4. You might recognise these lyrics:

*If there's something strange
In your neighborhood
Who you gonna call
(Ghostbusters)*

*If there's something weird
And it don't look good
Who you gonna call
(Ghostbusters)*

*I ain't afraid of no ghost
I ain't afraid of no ghost*

*If you're seeing things
Running through your head
Who can you call...*

These words are taken from the song, *Ghostbusters*, theme song of the 1980s movie of the same name.. In the light of the simple idea expressed in the words of the song, justify or refute the credibility of the governess's story in *The Turn of the Screw*. (50)

5. Hopfrog is no better than Caliban, Prospero's 'thing of darkness', for it is not circumstance that determines a man's actions but the moral compass of his soul.

Discuss the extent to which the souls of any three villains in the anthology are redeemable.
(Basimane, Frankenstein, Frankenstein's monster, Kurtz, Hopfrog) (50)

6. Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

In the light of this statement, examine the leadership displayed by Basimane's parents and by Marlow as illustrated in the excerpts provided in the anthology. (50)

7. A humane society requires the evolution of altruism, compassion and imagination in its individuals. Examine any two narratives in the anthology in the light of this requirement.

(50)

8. The saying, "Power corrupts", is never truer than when applied to the degenerate Mr Kurtz in *Heart of Darkness*. His sociopathic tendencies develop only in the frame in which he finds himself; he loses all sense of that which he once was, making him ultimately not to blame for his actions. Discuss.

(50)

9. G.R.L. brought out this song in 2015. You may recognize the lyrics:

Ugly Heart

*Maybe I'm just crazy
Maybe I'm a fool
Maybe I don't know how to love but
Maybe I do
Maybe you know more than me but
This much is true
This little heart and brain of mine say
We're through with you*

*And I wonder does it blow your mind
That I'm leaving you far behind
I wonder does it stop your heart to know
You're not my sunshine anymore*

*Okay you're pretty
Your face is a work of art
Your smile could light up New York City after dark
Okay you're cover-boy pretty
Stamped with a beauty mark
But it's such a pity a boy so pretty
With an ugly heart.*

Basimane sees himself as a trophy for any woman. Drawing from the texts provided, write a discursive essay examining his character for evidence of likable traits or redeeming features that mask a dark and callous person. You are invited to offer some kind of apologia** for him: if you feel inclined you may play devil's advocate; or you may damn him outright; but do take a stand: for or against. (50)

(** Apologia: a formal, written defence of your own or someone else's actions, opinions, conduct; an attempt to vindicate, defend or justify something.)

SECTION A2: CREATIVE RESPONSES

(20 MARKS)

Select ONE of the following options. Remember your answer will be assessed based upon appropriateness of register and diction. Your answer may be between 180 – 220 words in length.

1. Imagine you are a reporter for the *Hapsburg Herald*, based in Germany, when Dr Frankenstein's monster runs amok in the streets. Write a paragraph of News Copy, reporting the incident in the appropriate register and style. Supply a suitable headline.

AND

Write a paragraph of Editorial that would appear a few days later, showing the appropriate attitude of the newspaper: pity, revulsion or outrage.

It is essential that you illustrate the differences between presenting opinion and reporting news. Your task is to show these two styles in your writing. Your pieces need not be fully finished; you may even stop mid-sentence – but do show off your skill as a Journalist and as an Editor.

(20)

2. Write a note expressing your condolences to Mr Kurtz's fiancée, making use of subtle euphemism and appropriate register.

AND

Pretend you are Marlowe. Write an email to the Company giving a brief account of the capture and death of Mr Kurtz.

(20)

3. If Kurtz were ever to return to "civilization", he would be in serious need of counselling and psychotherapy to help him come to terms with what he has done. Write the psycho-therapist's note about Mr Kurtz in which s/he addresses the advisability of Kurtz being institutionalised, if not permanently, at least for observation and evaluation.

(20)

4. Marvel Comics and the characters of Anime create clear stereotypes of good and evil.

If you have some artistic skill, draw a sequence of frames, portraying your own 'evil' and 'good' characters in conflict with one another. This is not a test of how good an artist you are. There must be the minimum number of words, clearly reflecting your knowledge of the text. In this case a guide would be about 120 words, either in the cartoon's speech bubbles, or partly as an introduction to your cartoon, much like stage directions for play dialogue.

(20)

5. Basimane, Mr Kurtz and Dr Frankenstein are standing at the gates of heaven. St Peter is hearing the case of each as heaven is prepared to allow one candidate in on a special holiday concession.

Write the debate in which any two of these characters offers his defence.

(20)

6. Referring to the copy in the text box below, write a series of tweets citing appropriate examples or proof from at least two stories studied. (20)

PUBLIC VICTIMISATION

If there's anything more reprehensible than calling a rape survivor a liar, it's targeting and bullying her – especially on public forums such as Twitter and Facebook...In February, Twitter erupted when former *Sunday Times* columnist David Bullard posted Solomon (rape victim) this tweet... “@mishsolomon Face facts Mish. You got horribly drunk, had a bonk, regretted it in the morning and called it rape to protect your reputation.”

At least his Neanderthal comments drew heavy criticism with Sonke Gender Justice Network's Mbuyiselo Botha saying, “This contributes to the toxicity that degrades women every day. It confirms the ideology of patriarchy ... and feeds into what it means to be a man.”

From an article, *SA report*, that appeared in April 2014 edition of *Cosmopolitan*.

SECTION B: LANGUAGE

(30 MARKS)

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

1. Pretend you are a teacher of English faced with the task of correcting this essay. Choose 10 common errors and correct them appropriately.

Marks will be awarded for the ability to spot errors and for the sophistication of the correction.

(20)

AND

Write an encouraging note to the candidate, noting at least one positive aspect of the essay, and pointing out which common errors most urgently need attention.

(8)

Evil is everywhere: you can hear it in the silence... An Essay by Shaakirah

The world is full of evil. Those known to us and those that blend into society so well. The guys you'd never expect are some real dangerous. Boy oh boy are they clever! (cont.)

Oh don't act like you don't know what I'm talking about. Those dapper dressed fellows that always keep up with the latest trends but barely say two words to any one in real life. Yes. You've got it. Me...

Have you ever just gone to the park and watched everyone live in the moment? I mean, really watched, like sitting on a park bench, making hay while the sun shines, with your coffee and staring out at them? Watching them live in the moment. Seeing the happiness smothered all across their faces. Hearing the loud, carefree laughs ooze from their chest and mouths. It's quite a sight.

The happiness they experience is minimalistic compared to the joy I feel making sure that moment was their last.

Parks are an excellent place to meet people, but then there's also where I met you: Mike's Coffee Shop. I always made sure I had a window seat. Never the same one but never the less a window seat. That way I always had the upper hand. I could know more about you in seconds without you even knowing about it. That's modern technology for you. It's made getting information so much faster and easier these days. I had your address on my computer screen in a minute. Convenient.

That's basically how we got to where we are now. Wow! It sounds so much better out loud. I don't know how or why it had to be you, it just did. There were so many signs. It felt as though fate had brought us together for a reason. You don't need to play the victim though. Not just yet anyway. There's still a few more formalities we need to get out of the way before that label is brought up.

There's something about these last few moments that I just adore. I don't know if it's the sounds that I hear. Or the smell that slowly fills the room. It could be the draining of colour from your face as you await your fate and slowly begin to accept it.

It could be all those things. But the one thing I am most certain about is the death-becoming silence that expands between us.

Yes, it's the silence...

[28]

2. In *The Elements of Style*, Strunk and White present an experiment with language conducted by George Orwell on a passage from Ecclesiastes:

I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill, but time and chance happeneth to them all.

which is rewritten thus:

Objective consideration of contemporary phenomena compels the conclusion that success or failure in competitive activities exhibits no tendency to be commensurate with innate capacity, but that a considerable element of the unpredictable must inevitably be taken into account.

Justify the first as better literature, giving at least one good reason.

(2)

[30]

GRAND TOTAL [100]