

## Sample Questions

### SECTION 2 – CRITICAL ESSAY – 20 marks

Attempt ONE question from this Section of the paper choosing from the following genres – Drama, Prose, Poetry, Film and Television Drama, or Language.

You may use a Scottish text but NOT the one you used in Section 1.

Your essay should be on a different GENRE to the one you chose in Section 1.

You should spend about 45 minutes on the essay.

#### DRAMA

*Answers to questions on Drama should refer to the text and to such relevant features as characterisation, key scene(s), structure, climax, theme, plot, conflict, setting . . .*

1. Choose a play which you feel has a turning-point.

Describe briefly what happens at this turning point and then, by referring to appropriate techniques, go on to explain how it makes an impact on the play as a whole.

2. Choose a play in which the playwright presents a flawed character who you feel is more worthy of our sympathy than criticism.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the character's flawed nature is revealed, then explain how, despite this, we are led to feel sympathy for her/him.

#### PROSE

*Answers to questions on Prose should refer to the text and to such relevant features as characterisation, setting, language, key incident(s), climax, turning point, plot, structure, narrative technique, theme, ideas, description . . .*

3. Choose a novel or a short story or a work of non-fiction which explores an important theme.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the author has explored this theme.

4. Choose a novel or a short story in which the author creates a fascinating character.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the author has created this character and why you found him/her so fascinating.

#### POETRY

*Answers to questions on Poetry should refer to the text and to such relevant features as word choice, tone, imagery, structure, content, rhythm, rhyme, theme, sound, ideas . . .*

5. Choose a poem which made a lasting impression on you.

Explain briefly what the poem is about, then, by referring to appropriate techniques, show how the poem has made this lasting impression.

6. Choose a poem which features an encounter or an incident.

By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the poet's development of the encounter or incident leads you to a deeper understanding of the poem's central concerns.

#### FILM AND TELEVISION DRAMA

*Answers to questions on Film and Television Drama should refer to the text and to such relevant features as use of camera, key sequence, characterisation, mise-en-scène, editing, setting, music/sound, special effects, plot, dialogue . . .*

7. Choose a scene or sequence from a film or television drama\* which had an impact on you.

Briefly describe the events which led to this scene or sequence, then, by referring to appropriate techniques, go on to show how this impact was created.

8. Choose a film or television drama which belongs to a particular genre (eg crime, adventure, romance, soap opera, sit-com, thriller...)

By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the film or television makers have used features of this genre effectively.

\* "television drama" includes a single play, a series or a serial.

### **LANGUAGE**

*Answers to questions on Language should refer to the text and to such relevant features as register, accent, dialect, slang, jargon, vocabulary, tone, abbreviation . . .*

9. Choose a print or non-print text which aims to persuade people.

By referring to specific examples from your chosen text, show how persuasive techniques are used to engage the reader/viewer.

10. Consider a form of communication used by a particular group of people.

By referring to appropriate techniques such as distinctive vocabulary or grammatical constructions, show how the group's language is different from that used by the general population and discuss the advantages to the group of using its specific language.