



The 2024 English Olympiad

Theme: 'Resilience'

ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (FAL) EXAMINATION

DATE: Tuesday, 5 March 2024

STARTING TIME: Between 11:00 and 14:00, at the discretion of your school

TIME ALLOCATION: 3 hours (plus 15 minutes reading time before candidates start writing)

TEXT/ANTHOLOGY: *Now & Then*

TOTAL MARKS: 100

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS:

This examination must 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 (*Now & Then*) which may contain underlining or highlighting, but **no notes**
- a dictionary.

During the examination, candidates may **not** have access to an Olympiad Study Guide or to any other notes, documents or information, or to cell phones or other communication systems.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR 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. Start each section at the top of a new page, and **write the number of the question** above each of your answers – eg A3, B5, etc.
 4. On the cover of your Examination Answer Booklet, please clearly indicate:
 - your school's Olympiad Examination Centre Number;
 - your personal Examination Number; and
 - the number of each of the questions that you have answered.
- Do NOT write your name, your address or the name of your school on the cover, or anywhere else in your Examination Answer Booklet.**
5. You are required to answer:
 - a) one question from **SECTION A** (60 marks)
 - b) one question from **SECTION B** (40 marks)

You are invited to draw from and to refer to your extended reading, but **the main focus of your essay should be upon the texts contained in the anthology.**

We value your responses. Enjoy the experience.

DO NOT TURN OVER THIS PAGE WITHOUT PERMISSION

Select ONE of the following options and write an essay of 450 to 550 words in response to your chosen topic. PENALTIES MAY BE APPLIED TO ESSAYS THAT EXCEED THE PRESCRIBED LENGTH.

Notes: You should express your own ideas in response to the questions.

There are no model answers.

You should quote from the texts in your anthology to substantiate your ideas.

Question A1

“Do not judge me by my success. Judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.”

– Nelson Mandela

In his autobiography, *Down Second Avenue*, Es’kia Mphahlele deals with the conditions forced upon Black South Africans during the years of Apartheid.

Using the extract in the anthology from *Down Second Avenue* as a foundation for your essay, examine the themes of apartheid, poverty, racism, and education in relation to the narrator’s experiences.

Question A2

“Whenever I write, I write what I find to be the way people are. I never use any symbolism at all, but if you write as truthfully as you possibly can, people will see symbolism. They all see different symbolism, but they’re apt to, because you can see it in life.”

– Carolyn Chute

In his autobiography, *Down Second Avenue*, Es’kia Mphahlele refers to various symbols.

Using the extract in the anthology from *Down Second Avenue* as a foundation for your essay, discuss and examine the symbolism of the two goats, the school, the communal fireplace and the river.

It is important to consider that, although Es’kia Mphahlele’s writing can be described as brutal and horrifying, some of the symbols offer a glimmer of hope and open the door to resilience.

Question A3

“Until the lioness can tell its own story, the story of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.”

– African Proverb

Oral tradition and story-telling are emphasised in the autobiography, *To My Children’s Children*, in which Sindiwe Magona engages her memories, her voice, and her belonging to her community.

Using the extract in the anthology from *To My Children’s Children* as a foundation for your essay, examine the roles of women and men within the community; the beauty of oral storytelling by passing on beliefs, customs and values; the work ethic of individuals; and established routines. How do these compare with the way in which young people are being raised today?

Question A4

“No one escapes pain, fear, and suffering. Yet from pain can come wisdom, from fear can come courage, from suffering can come strength – if we have the virtue of resilience.”

– Eric Greutens

In a well-structured essay, show how three or four characters from the texts in the anthology have displayed resilience – ie the ability to cope with very difficult circumstances despite the odds they face.

To substantiate your answer, you should provide examples/situations by quoting from various texts in the anthology.

Question A5

“He felt at once betrayed and betrayer, deceived and the deceiver. He was a criminal forced into crime.”
– Peter Benchley

Trevor Noah’s *Born A Crime* captures the realities of living in a township.

Using the extract in the anthology from *Born A Crime* as a foundation for your essay, discuss the issues (challenges) that are mentioned.

What, in your opinion, are the possible solutions to the crime waves currently engulfing South Africa?

Question A6

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
You’re on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who’ll decide where to go. ...

I’m sorry to say so
but, sadly, it’s true
that Bang-ups
and Hang-ups can happen to you ...

and when you’re in a Slump,
you’re not in for much fun.
Un-slumping yourself
is not easily done ...

But on you will go ...
though your enemies prowl ...
On and on you will hike.
And I know you’ll hike far
and face up to your problems
whatever they are

– Dr Seuss

Like Dr Seuss, the texts *Born a Crime* and *Shirley, Goodness & Mercy* both utilise humour and pathos (a feeling of pity or sadness) to address the issues of racism and apartheid, and are narrated by authors who are classified as coloured.

In a well-structured essay, compare the experiences of these narrators by discussing the differences and the similarities between the two texts.

Candidates are encouraged to consider the different settings and ideas surrounding race, culture and values.

Question A7

“The world needs strong women. Women who will lift and build others, who will love and be loved, women who will live bravely, both tender and fierce. Women of indomitable will.”
– Amy Tenney

In a carefully structured essay, discuss and examine the resilience that the female characters have displayed in the texts in the anthology, referring to at least THREE of the following texts: *Songs for Sarah*; *Travel Light, Move Fast*; *Shirley, Goodness & Mercy*; and *Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight*.

Select ONE of the following options and write a creative piece, keeping your answer within the number of words indicated.

Your answer will be assessed based on the appropriateness of your register and diction.

NB - In this section you may **not** answer a question based solely upon a text that you have discussed extensively in Section A. If you do so, your answer will not be considered. You **may**, however, answer a question that includes a **group of authors, one of whom** you discussed in Section A.

Question B1: Letter to a Newspaper (250 to 300 words)

Write a letter to a newspaper in which you express your concern about crime in South Africa. Write only the body of the letter, and omit the address and salutation.

Question B2: Speech (250 to 300 words)

Imagine that you are Sindiwe Magona, author of *To My Children's Children*. Write a speech dedicated to girls on their path to womanhood.

Question B3: Song Lyrics (150 to 250 words)

The following lyrics are from the song *Redemption* by the American rock band, The Strange Familiar:

The night is slowly closing
But my eyes are slowly opened
And I see that somewhere in you
There is a good heart
There is a good soul.

For everyone lost in the silence
For every one missing piece
For every will that is broken
No matter how dark it may be
There is redemption.

I feel the threat of thunder
But this rain can't last forever
The light chases the dark
Where there's a good heart
There is a good soul.

For everyone lost in the silence
For every one missing piece
For every will that is broken
No matter how dark it may be
There is redemption.

Write your own lyrics for a song about resilience.

Question B4: Poem (150 to 250 words)

Write a poem about the resilience that has been displayed by some of the characters in the anthology.

Question B5: Journal Entries (250 to 300 words)

Imagine you are Alexandra Fuller's mother. Write TWO journal entries that capture the events that are described in the extract of *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* that appears in the anthology.

The use of emotive and descriptive language is encouraged.

Question B6: Dialogue (250 to 300 words)

In *The Horse, the Boy, the Fox and the Mole*, a boy and a horse are in the woods. The boy explains to the horse that he can't see a way through his current obstacles. The horse then asks the boy if he is able to see his next step. The boy then replies that he can. The horse then says, 'Just take the first step.'

Write a dialogue between you and Zakes Mda, author of *Sometimes There's a Void*, in which you discuss a five-step programme to enhance resilience, emphasising essential qualities and attributes.