



The 2023 English Olympiad

Theme: Care and Compassion

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE (HL) EXAMINATION

DATE: Tuesday, 7 March 2023

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: *A Better World*

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 (*A Better World*) 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 or documents, or to cell phones or other information systems of any kind.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. **Please write clearly and legibly.** Marks will 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 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. ESSAYS IN EXCESS OF THE PRESCRIBED LENGTH WILL INCUR PENALTIES.

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 you think the fears and pleas expressed by the unborn child in MacNiece's 'Prayer before Birth' are justified?

Write an essay in which you give your opinion about this while referring to at least two other texts in the anthology to substantiate your ideas.

Question A2

Both Juliet and Hermia defy their fathers' orders to marry the man chosen for them.

Write an essay in which you give your opinion on arranged marriages. Refer to the two Shakespearean texts and at least one other text in your anthology.

Question A3

'The Lamb' and 'The Tyger' are complex poems that explore, amongst other things, good and evil forces.

Write an essay in which you delve into what you believe mankind's intrinsic nature might be. Refer to at least one other work from the anthology to substantiate your views.

Question A4

Write an essay in which you discuss whether mankind is indeed 'some infinitely gentle // Infinitely suffering thing.'

Might there be ways of escaping this condition? Cite works in your anthology to give substance to your argument.

Question A5

Oliver Twist lands up in a workhouse in which he is ill-treated. Are places such as workhouses and reformatories likely to breed criminals?

Write an essay in which you refer to at least two other texts in the anthology as you discuss this topic.

Question A6

In the modern South African poem 'Take me to the riot' the speaker exults in being destructive.

Write an essay in which you consider what might cause this defiance and suggest a possible solution to this attitude. Refer to at least one other text in the anthology.

Question A7

This anthology is redolent with gloom and doom scenarios that depict mankind as uncaring towards its children and the vulnerable. In the delightful modern 'Sonnet to a Sk8r Girl', however, the then schoolboy, Hau-Yoon, has his speaker claim that the youngster 'has an open mind and caring heart'. Are people like the Sk8r Girl the answer to all this pain and suffering?

Write an essay in which you, as a young person, look forward to making our world a 'better place'. Remember to quote extensively from the anthology to substantiate and give depth to your answer.

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.

Caution: In this section you may **not** answer a question based 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 that The Children's Bill, which went before Parliament in 2003, is being flouted in South Africa. Write only the body of the letter and omit the address and salutation.

Question B2: Speech (250 to 300 words)

Imagine you are a member of the British Parliament during the Victorian era when Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist* and Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote 'The Cry of the Children'. Write a **speech** in which you try to persuade the house to vote in favour of a reform bill limiting the age of child labourers.

Question B3: Short Story (250 to 300 words)

Write a **short story** to give the *Oliver Twist* tale a happy ending.

Begin: *'The next morning Oliver was led out of his room of confinement and ...'*

Question B4: Poem (150 to 250 words)

Write a **poem** in response to Lara Evans's poem 'Anonymous' in which you explain forcefully to 'Mr Anonymous' that he is not really successful despite his 'matching tie and suit'.

Begin: *'You smell like navy blue
But ...'*

Question B5: Newspaper Editorial (250 to 300 words)

The speaker in 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum' pleads with authority figures to rectify the appalling conditions found in the school he describes. Write a **newspaper editorial** in which you describe and comment on a few of the problems found in some South African schools.

Question B6: Dialogue (250 to 300 words)

Write a **dialogue** between Dr de Valdoleiros and another (fictitious) doctor who runs a successful, up-market practice that charges above medical aid recommended fees. Refer to these two doctors as 'de Valdoleiros' and 'Rich Doctor' in your dialogue.

TOTAL MARKS: 60 + 40 = 100