



NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
NOVEMBER 2011

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE: PAPER II

Time: 3 hours

100 marks

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

1. This paper consists of 8 pages. Please check that your question paper is complete.
 2. Questions must be answered in BOTH SECTIONS. In Section A, ONE question must be answered on the Shakespearean text and one question on the novel. In Section B, ONE question must be answered from Question 4 and ONE question from Question 5.
 3. Begin each question on a new page. Do not copy down headings for your answers. Copy down only the question numbers, making sure they are accurate. You may answer the questions in whatever order you wish, but number answers exactly as the questions are numbered.
 4. Do not hesitate to give your own judgements. Attempt to create space in which your own voice can be evident. The examiners will judge your answers on your understanding of and insight into given texts and will also assess the competence with which your answers are expressed.
 5. Be guided by the number of marks allocated to each question. Aim at concise answers that give relevant information.
 6. It is in your own interests to write legibly and to present your work neatly.
-

SECTION A LITERATURE**SHAKESPEARE KING LEAR****QUESTION 1**

Write a mini-essay in response to the following question. The length of your response should be 350 – 400 words. Remember that your response must be preceded by a ONE page plan of what you intend to argue in your essay. The plan must provide an indication of how you will structure your essay.

Please provide a word count at the end of the essay.

Your knowledge of King Lear and your ability to plan, structure and substantiate your stance – including the use of quotations – will be assessed.

Dementia is defined as:
Irreversible mental deterioration. Short-term memory loss, irritability and confusion are among the symptoms of the illness.

Act 4, Scene 7

LEAR:

*'Pray, do not mock me:
I am a very foolish fond old man,
Four score and upward, not an hour more nor less;
And, to deal plainly,
I fear I am not in my perfect mind.
Methinks I should know you, and know this man;
Yet I am doubtful: for I am mainly ignorant
What place this is; and all the skill I have
Remembers not these garments; nor I know not
Where I did lodge last night. Do not laugh at me;
For, as I am a man, I think this lady
To be my child Cordelia.'*

CORDELIA: 'And so I am, I am.'



In a well-structured and carefully considered argument, decide whether you believe the reason for the disintegration of the title character in King Lear is dementia or whether external factors are more to blame.

[30]

SECTION A NOVELS***THE NATIVE COMMISSIONER* or *THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL*****QUESTION 2 *THE NATIVE COMMISSIONER***

Write a literary essay on ONE of the following topics. Your essay should be approximately 600 words in length. Close and relevant reference to the texts in question is essential.

- 2.1 Chinua Achebe argues: *'I do think that decency and civilization would insist that the writer takes sides with the powerless. Clearly, there is no moral obligation to write in a particular way. But there is a moral obligation, I think, not to ally oneself with power against the powerless. I think an artist, in my definition of that word, would not be someone who takes sides with the emperor against his powerless subjects.'*

In a carefully considered argument, decide whether the author of The Native Commissioner has succeeded in being an 'artist' as defined by Achebe. (30)

OR

- 2.2 *'If you could read the secret history of your enemies, you should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostilities'.* (p 33 of The Native Commissioner)

In the novel there is a powerful reference to the concept of the 'unperson' and to ignoring or disregarding the existence of others.

Decide to what extent this could be argued to be The Native Commissioner's central image. (30)

OR

QUESTION 3 THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL

Write a literary essay on ONE of the following topics. Your essay should be approximately 600 words in length. Close and relevant reference to the texts in question is essential.

- 3.1 Chinua Achebe argues: *'I do think that decency and civilization would insist that the writer takes sides with the powerless. Clearly, there is no moral obligation to write in a particular way. But there is a moral obligation, I think, not to ally oneself with power against the powerless. I think an artist, in my definition of that word, would not be someone who takes sides with the emperor against his powerless subjects.'*

In a carefully considered argument, decide whether the author of The Tenant Of Wildfell Hall has succeeded in being an 'artist' as defined by Achebe. (30)

OR

- 3.2 Brontë stated in the preface to the second edition of The Tenant of Wildfell Hall that her purpose in writing the novel was to tell the truth and to convey a moral idea:

'Let it not be imagined, however, that I consider myself competent to reform the errors and abuses of society, but only that I would fain contribute my humble quota towards so good an aim; and if I can gain the public ear at all, I would rather whisper a few wholesome truths therein than much soft nonsense.'

Judge how effectively the author has conveyed 'truths' and not resorted to 'soft nonsense' in her writing of The Tenant of Wildfell Hall. (30)
[30]

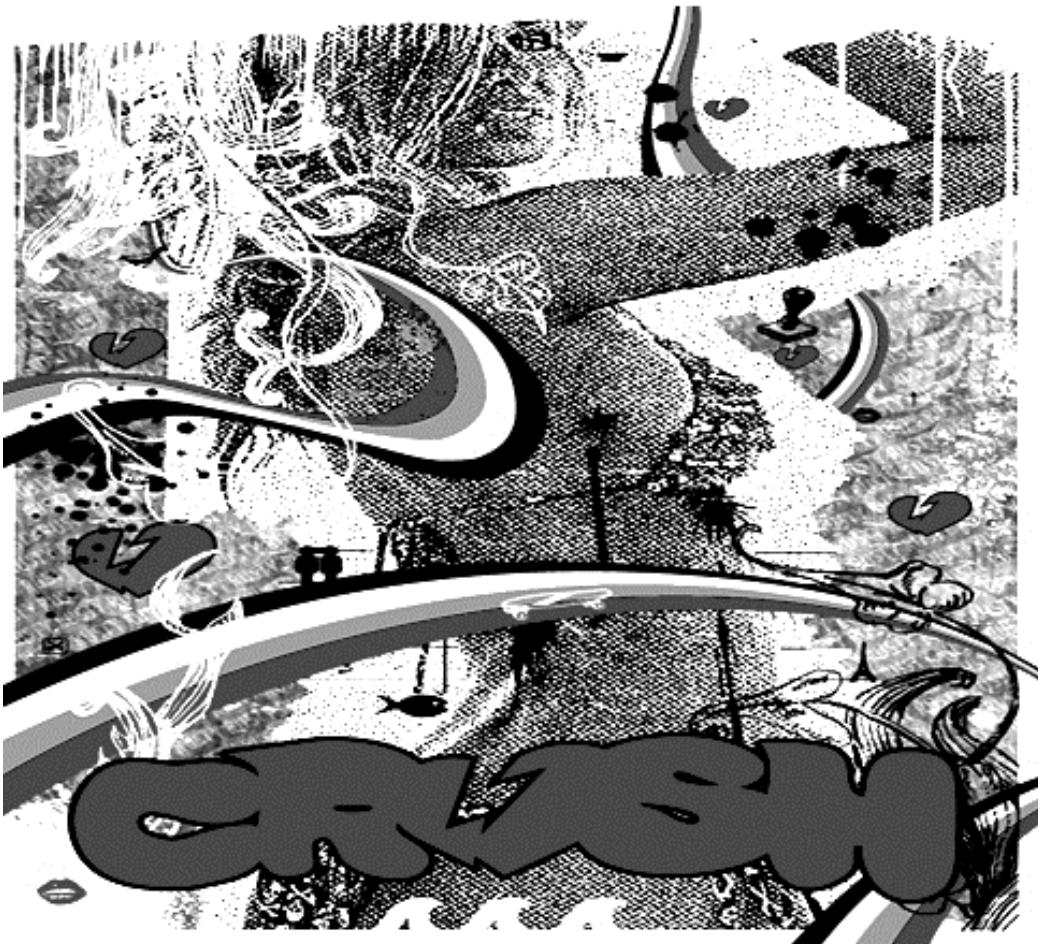
| |
|-----------------|
| 60 marks |
|-----------------|

SECTION B TRANSACTIONAL WRITING: SHORT PIECES

You must answer ONE of the options in QUESTION 4 and ONE of the options in QUESTION 5. The body of each response should be between 250 and 300 words in length. Remember to pay attention to the register and purpose of your text.

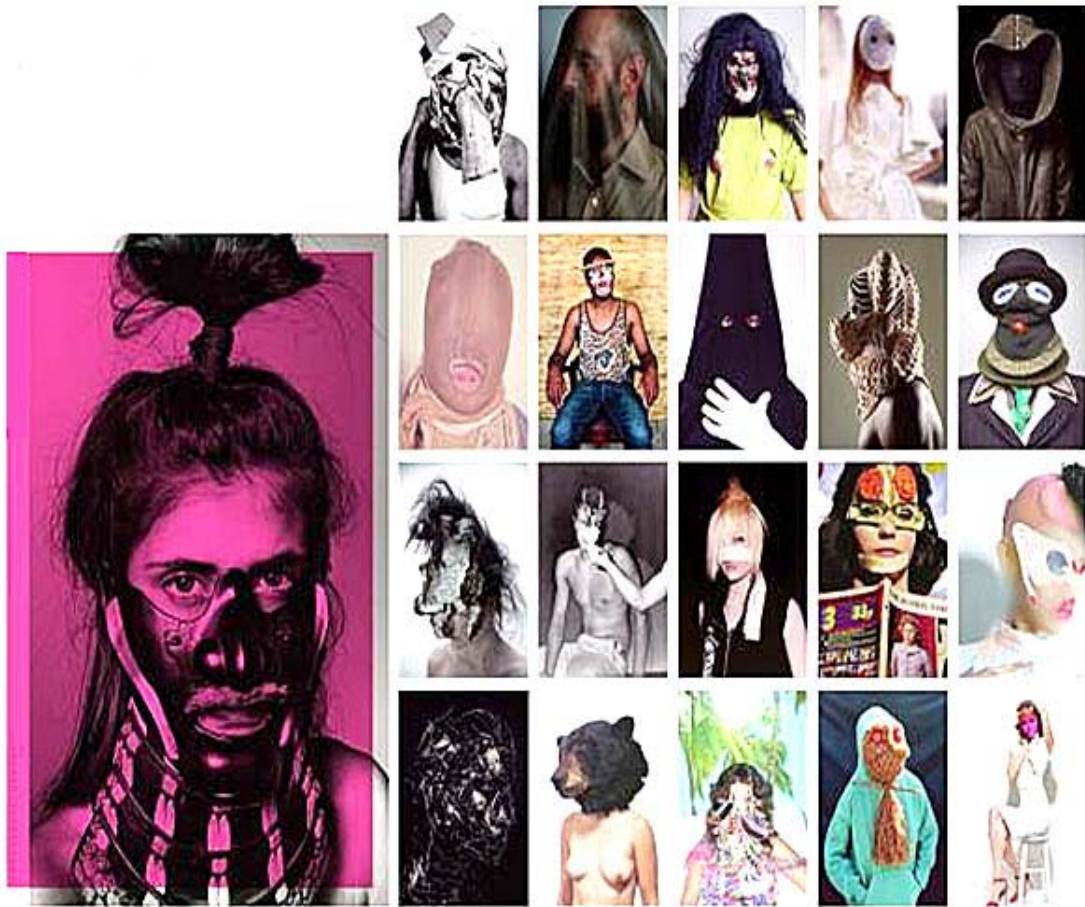
QUESTION 4

- 4.1 Refer to the visual below. This visual is going to be used as the front cover for a new 'teen' magazine. The visual has been chosen as it apparently represents the lifestyle of teenagers. **Write an email to the editors – editors@crush.co.za – (who are all in their late twenties) in which you either support the use of this visual or argue for a completely different kind of visual. Your response should focus on the nature of what the visual represents.** (20)



OR

- 4.2 Refer to the following page from a women's magazine. The article was looking at identity.



Write an email to the Matrics of 2011 – matric2011@newieb.co.za – in which you request greater tolerance and acceptance of alternative types of identities.

(20)

[20]

AND

QUESTION 5

- 5.1 Refer to the following depiction of Guilt Culture and Shame Culture. We are familiar with guilt culture as this often occurs in crime literature: the wrongly-accused person, even someone who is 'framed', struggles to demonstrate innocence and be vindicated – or wrestles with his or her conscience over an undetected crime.

Shame culture, on the other hand, is something that people argue has disappeared from society. This culture relies on societal honour and the idea that we conform to common standards of behaviour – we do not want to be disgraced in the eyes of others. This is the opposite of many modern trends where tabloid behaviour (behaviour that often does not take into account morality or appropriate behaviour) is regarded as acceptable.

| | | Others believe I am: | | GUILT CULTURE |
|-----------------|------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | guilty | not guilty | |
| I believe I am: | guilty | I am guilty and am punished | I should feel guilty regardless | |
| | not guilty | I protest my innocence and fight the accusation | No problem | |
| | | | | SHAME CULTURE |
| | | guilty | not guilty | |
| I believe I am: | guilty | I am guilty and am punished | No-one knows, so I am not shamed | |
| | not guilty | I am shamed and dishonored by their belief | No problem | |

Write an editorial for The Mail and Guardian in which you either argue for the return of a shame culture or defend the lack of one. (20)

OR

5.2 Read the extract below and answer the question which follows:***WORKING OUT THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS:***

Syracuse University Professor Arthur Brooks's new book, National Happiness, advances the provocative hypothesis that conservatives are happier than liberals; 'Political conservatives take the happiness prize hands down.'

Why? For one thing, they are more likely to be married, which generally correlates with happiness (although having children does not). Also, they are more likely to be religious, which has its own rewards.

More to the point, conservatives like things the way they are. The status quo is perfectly all right with them.

[From: *The Business Times*, 25 May 2008]

Write a formal letter to the Syracuse University professor in which you respond (in a formal manner) to his argument.

(20)

[20]

| |
|-----------------|
| 40 marks |
|-----------------|

Total: 100 marks