

External assessment 2024

Question book

# Literature

## General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

# Section 1

## Instructions

- There are two questions for each of the eight texts.
  - Respond to **one** of the questions for your chosen text in the form of an analytical essay.
  - Respond in 800–1000 words in the response book.
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### ***Catch-22* by Joseph Heller**

- a) In the novel, Heller represents Colonel Cathcart as a hypocrite. Discuss.

**OR**

- b) At the end of the novel, Yossarian says, ‘I’m not running away from my responsibilities. I’m running to them. There’s nothing negative about running away to save my life’.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

### ***Hamlet* by William Shakespeare**

- a) Shakespeare represents Claudius’s treachery as the catalyst for the tragedy in the play. Discuss.

**OR**

- b) In Act 3, Hamlet says to himself, ‘I essentially am not in madness, but mad in craft’.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

### ***In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote**

- a) In the novel, Capote represents the irony of redemption. Discuss.

**OR**

- b) In his confession in chapter 4, Smith says, ‘They [the Clutters] never hurt me. Like other people. Like people have all my life. Maybe it’s just that the Clutters were the ones who had to pay for it’.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

### ***King Lear* by William Shakespeare**

- a) Shakespeare represents Edmund as the most villainous character in the play. Discuss.

**OR**

- b) In the final scenes of the play, Kent says of Lear’s death, ‘Vex not his ghost: O let him pass; he hates him, that would upon the rack of this tough world stretch him out longer’.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

### ***Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf**

- a) In the novel, Woolf represents masculinity as flawed. Discuss.

**OR**

- b) At the end of the novel, Peter Walsh suggests that life can be characterised as both 'terror' and 'ecstasy'.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

### ***Terra Nullius* by Claire G. Coleman**

- a) In the novel, Coleman represents Esperance as the most determined character. Discuss.

**OR**

- b) At the end of the novel, Jacky says, 'We think of the Settlers, who we call Toads, as inhuman. They are not — what they are is nonhuman. In all other ways they are more like us than we would like to admit'.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

### ***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver**

- a) In the novel, Kingsolver represents vulnerability as the most problematic issue. Discuss.

**OR**

- b) At the end of the novel, Ruth May says, 'Slide the weight from your shoulders and move forward ... You will forgive and remember'.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

### ***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë**

- a) In the novel, Brontë represents Catherine Earnshaw as incapable of love because she is driven by social class. Discuss.

**OR**

- b) In the final chapter of the novel, Nelly says, 'But poor Hareton, the most wronged, was the only one that really suffered much'.

Analyse this comment in relation to the text as a whole.

## References

- Brontë, E 1847, *Wuthering Heights*, Penguin Books, London.
- Capote, T 1962, *In Cold Blood*, Penguin Books, London.
- Coleman, CG 2017, *Terra Nullius*, Hachette, Sydney.
- Heller, J 1955, *Catch-22*, Vintage Random House, London.
- Kingsolver, B 1998, *The Poisonwood Bible*, Harper Collins, USA
- Shakespeare, W 1980, *Hamlet*, Penguin Classics Random House, London.
- Shakespeare, W 1987, *King Lear*, Wordsworth Classics, Hertfordshire.
- Woolf, V 2004, *Mrs Dalloway*, Vintage Books, London.



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