



# Victorian Certificate of Education 2012

## ENGLISH Written examination

Thursday 1 November 2012

Reading time: 9.00 am to 9.15 am (15 minutes)

Writing time: 9.15 am to 12.15 pm (3 hours)

### TASK BOOK

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Marks</i>
A – Text response	20	1	20
B – Writing in Context	4	1	20
C – Analysis of language use	1	1	20
			Total 60

- Students are to write in blue or black pen.
- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, rulers and an English and/or bilingual printed dictionary.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

#### Materials supplied

- Task book of 14 pages, including **Examination assessment criteria** on page 14.
- One answer book.

#### Instructions

- Write your student number and name on the front cover of the answer book.
- Complete each of the following in the answer book.
  - Section A: Text response
  - Section B: Writing in Context
  - Section C: Analysis of language use
- Each section should be completed in the correct part of the answer book.
- All written responses must be in English.
- If you write on a film text in Section A, you must not write on a film text in Section B.
- You may ask the supervisor for extra answer books.

#### At the end of the task

- Enclose any extra answer books inside the front cover of the first answer book.
- You may keep this task book.

**Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.**

**SECTION A – Text response****Instructions for Section A**

Section A requires students to complete **one analytical/expository** piece of writing in response to **one** topic (either **i.** or **ii.**) on **one** selected text.

Indicate the text selected and whether you are answering **i.** or **ii.**

In your response you must develop a sustained discussion of **one** selected text from the Text list below.

Your response must be supported by close reference to and analysis of the selected text.

For collections of poetry or short stories, you may choose to write on several poems or short stories, or on one or two in very close detail, depending on what you think is appropriate.

Your response will be assessed according to the criteria set out on page 14 of this book.

Section A is worth one-third of the total assessment for the examination.

If you write on a film text in Section A, you must **not** write on a film text in Section B.

**Text list**

1. *A Christmas Carol* ..... Charles Dickens
2. *A Farewell to Arms* ..... Ernest Hemingway
3. *A Human Pattern: Selected Poems* ..... Judith Wright
4. *Bypass: The Story of a Road*..... Michael McGirr
5. *Cat's Eye* ..... Margaret Atwood
6. *Così* ..... Louis Nowra
7. *Dear America – Letters Home from Vietnam* ..... Edited by Bernard Edelman
8. *Dreams from My Father* ..... Barack Obama
9. *Henry IV, Part I*..... William Shakespeare
10. *Interpreter of Maladies* ..... Jhumpa Lahiri
11. *Life of Pi* ..... Yann Martel
12. *On the Waterfront* ..... Directed by Elia Kazan
13. *Ransom* ..... David Malouf
14. *The Old Man Who Read Love Stories*..... Directed by Rolf de Heer
15. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*..... Mohsin Hamid
16. *The War Poems* ..... Wilfred Owen
17. *Things We Didn't See Coming* ..... Steven Amsterdam
18. *Twelve Angry Men* ..... Reginald Rose
19. *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*..... Raymond Carver
20. *Year of Wonders* ..... Geraldine Brooks

1. ***A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens**

- i. 'Despite his mean and miserable ways, we never completely dislike Scrooge.'  
Discuss.

OR

- ii. 'Generosity is not just about the giving of money.'  
How is this idea explored in *A Christmas Carol*?

2. ***A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway**

- i. To what extent is Frederic changed by his relationships in *A Farewell to Arms*?

OR

- ii. 'In Hemingway's novel, there is no farewell to arms.'  
Do you agree?

3. ***A Human Pattern: Selected Poems* by Judith Wright**

- i. How does the poetry in this selection reflect what Wright refers to as her "search for wholeness"?

OR

- ii. 'It is Wright's imagery that makes her poetry so engaging.'  
Discuss.

4. ***Bypass: The Story of a Road* by Michael McGirr**

- i. 'Roads aren't meant to be travelled alone.'  
How important are other people in McGirr's journey along the Hume Highway?

OR

- ii. "A bicycle is the perfect vehicle for exploration."  
To what extent is McGirr an explorer?

5. ***Cat's Eye* by Margaret Atwood**

- i. 'Elaine's painting is both a form of therapy and a means of revenge.'  
Discuss.

OR

- ii. To what extent have cruelty and kindness shaped the relationships in *Cat's Eye*?

6. ***Così* by Louis Nowra**

- i. 'In *Così*, the quality of the final production is not as important as what happens during rehearsals.'  
Do you agree?

OR

- ii. Is *Così* more about love than madness?

**7. *Dear America – Letters Home from Vietnam* edited by Bernard Edelman**

- i. ‘Along with confusion, pain and despair, there is a strong message of hope in these letters.’  
Do you agree?

**OR**

- ii. ‘The reader cannot help feeling that the soldiers are victims of war.’  
Discuss.

**8. *Dreams from My Father* by Barack Obama**

- i. Obama’s Kenyan grandmother says to him, “. . . a man can never be too busy to know his own people”.  
Why was it important to Obama to know his own people?

**OR**

- ii. ‘Barack Obama learns that collision between cultures is as much a feature of life in Africa as it is in America.’  
Discuss.

**9. *Henry IV, Part I* by William Shakespeare**

- i. “Thou art not what thou seemest.”  
‘Playing a part is the only way to gain power in *Henry IV, Part I*.’  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. ‘Shakespeare’s *Henry IV, Part I* explores what it means to be an honest and honourable man.’  
Discuss.

**10. *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri**

- i. ‘Poor communication and unexpressed feelings cause distress for characters in these stories.’  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. ‘Lahiri’s stories suggest that it is difficult to maintain happiness in close relationships.’  
Discuss.

**11. *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel**

- i. ‘The reader prefers to believe Pi’s original version of events rather than the later version.’  
Do you agree?

**OR**

- ii. ‘*Life of Pi* suggests that life demands a choice between resistance and surrender.’  
Discuss.

**12. *On the Waterfront* directed by Elia Kazan**

- i. How does Kazan create tension and suspense in *On the Waterfront*?

**OR**

- ii. 'It is not only through physical violence that the mob maintains its power.'  
Do you agree?

**13. *Ransom* by David Malouf**

- i. '*Ransom* demonstrates that it is a man's actions that define him.'  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. 'Despite the violence in *Ransom*, the reader is left with a sense of optimism.'  
Discuss.

**14. *The Old Man Who Read Love Stories* directed by Rolf de Heer**

- i. 'Antonio is an exile from both of the worlds depicted in *The Old Man Who Read Love Stories*.'  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. How does de Heer use Antonio's memories in *The Old Man Who Read Love Stories*?

**15. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid**

- i. 'Changez is gradually revealed as an unreliable narrator.'  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. Why does Changez feel out of place in both America and Pakistan?

**16. *The War Poems* by Wilfred Owen**

- i. 'Owen's poems reveal tenderness and compassion towards those whose lives have been destroyed by the war.'  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. 'The poems condemn those who encourage young men to go to war.'  
Discuss.

**17. *Things We Didn't See Coming* by Steven Amsterdam**

- i. 'To survive in the situations depicted in *Things We Didn't See Coming*, people need to be adaptable.'  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. 'Amsterdam's characters are motivated by self-interest.'  
Discuss.

**18. *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose**

- i. '*Twelve Angry Men* highlights the importance of seeing things from more than one perspective.'  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. '*Twelve Angry Men* is a play about how power can be misused.'  
Discuss.

**19. *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?* by Raymond Carver**

- i. 'In these stories, Carver shows more sympathy for men than for women.'  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. 'In *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*, Carver presents lives that seem hopeless.'  
Discuss.

**20. *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks**

- i. 'In the face of the plague, the characters' beliefs disintegrate.'  
Discuss.

**OR**

- ii. 'The ignorance of the villagers is more powerful than Anna's growing knowledge.'  
Discuss.

**SECTION B – Writing in Context****Instructions for Section B**

Section B requires students to complete an extended written response.

Indicate the Context and the main text drawn upon in the answer book.

In your writing, you must draw on ideas suggested by **one** of the **four** Contexts.

Your writing must draw directly from **at least one** selected text that you have studied for this Context and be based on the ideas in the prompt.

Your response may be an expository, persuasive or imaginative piece of writing.

If you write on a selected film text in Section A, you must **not** write on a selected film text in Section B.

Section B is worth one-third of the total assessment for the examination.

Your response will be assessed according to the criteria set out on page 14 of this book.

**Context 1 – The imaginative landscape**

*Island*..... Alistair MacLeod

*One Night the Moon*..... Directed by Rachel Perkins

*Peripheral Light – Selected and New Poems*..... John Kinsella

*Tirra Lirra by the River*..... Jessica Anderson

**Prompt**

**‘The ways in which we understand a landscape and respond to it can change over time.’**

**Task**

Complete an extended written response in expository, persuasive or imaginative style. Your writing must draw from **at least one** selected text for this Context and explore the idea that **‘the ways in which we understand a landscape and respond to it can change over time’**.

OR

**Context 2 – Whose reality?**

*A Streetcar Named Desire*..... Tennessee Williams

*Spies*..... Michael Frayn

*The Lot: In Words*..... Michael Leunig

*The Player*..... Directed by Robert Altman

**Prompt**

**‘Our fantasies can be more powerful than our reality.’**

**Task**

Complete an extended written response in expository, persuasive or imaginative style. Your writing must draw from **at least one** selected text for this Context and explore the idea that **‘our fantasies can be more powerful than our reality’**.

OR



**Context 3 – Encountering conflict**

*Paradise Road*..... Directed by Bruce Beresford  
*The Crucible*..... Arthur Miller  
*The Quiet American* ..... Graham Greene  
*The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif* ..... Najaf Mazari and Robert Hillman

**Prompt**

**‘The experience of conflict changes people’s priorities.’**

**Task**

Complete an extended written response in expository, persuasive or imaginative style. Your writing must draw from **at least one** selected text for this Context and explore the idea that **‘the experience of conflict changes people’s priorities’**.

OR

**Context 4 – Exploring issues of identity and belonging**

*Growing up Asian in Australia* ..... Edited by Alice Pung  
*Skin*..... Directed by Anthony Fabian  
*Sometimes Gladness*..... Bruce Dawe  
*The Member of the Wedding* ..... Carson McCullers

**Prompt**

**‘Each person has different identities for different relationships and situations.’**

**Task**

Complete an extended written response in expository, persuasive or imaginative style. Your writing must draw from **at least one** selected text for this Context and explore the idea that **‘each person has different identities for different relationships and situations’**.

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**SECTION C – Analysis of language use****Instructions for Section C**

Section C requires students to analyse the ways in which language and visual features are used to present a point of view.

Section C is worth one-third of the total assessment for the examination.

Read the material on pages 12 and 13 and then complete the task below.

Write your analysis as a coherently structured piece of prose.

Your response will be assessed according to the criteria set out on page 14 of this book.

**TASK**

How is written and visual language used to attempt to persuade the audience to share the point of view of the speaker?

**Background information**

- Pages 12 and 13 contain the transcript of a speech by Mrs Elliot, a retired teacher-librarian, at the opening of 'Reading: the future', a forum on reading and literacy-related activities.
- Two slides used by the speaker during her presentation are also shown.
- The audience included teachers, librarians and senior school students from local schools.

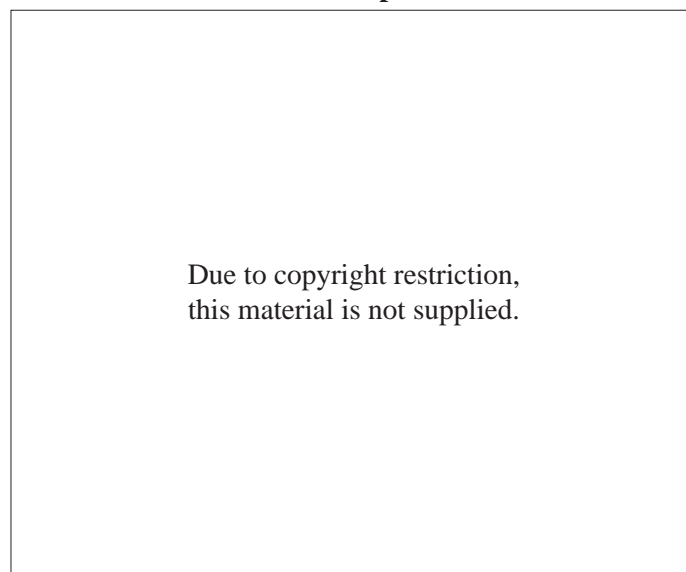
Good morning fellow book-lovers.

I have always been what's known as an 'early adopter', someone who is enthusiastic about new technology.

As a teenager I was excited to learn about the massive change that hit the world when Gutenberg invented the first printing press in the 15th century. Until then, books were extremely precious and rare objects made by hand and owned only by the rich, but with this new machine they could be produced again and again. The number of books in the world exploded.

I like change. So when electronic books arrived, I rushed out to buy an e-reading device. I thought making books easier to get, cheaper to own and more convenient to carry had to be a good thing. I wanted to be free of the expense that goes with a lifetime of book-buying, and I wanted effortless library borrowing and effortless return of books. I imagined children setting off to school without the terrible burden of their great big textbooks.

**A slide from the presentation**



Source: photo.ua/shutterstock.com

Like many of you I'm an enthusiastic reader and I see books as a doorway to other worlds – worlds that we actively create in our imaginations, using someone else's words.

My enthusiasm extends to e-books. Some things about them are great. I love being able to change the brightness settings and the font size; it's fun to look up a dictionary or Wikipedia just by selecting a word. And it's exciting to know that e-books can break through the limitations of the printing press.

So what's to worry about?

Well, I do wonder about the video and animated images that some e-books will contain. They might become a kind of substitute for genuine reading. Recently I saw a TV ad showing a child, all alone, looking at a tablet device. At first I thought he was reading, but he wasn't. He was viewing – some might say 'experiencing' – computer-generated images of dinosaurs. I don't find this exciting. To me it's disturbing, the idea of a child passively consuming something already imagined and packaged up in a conveniently portable form, as empty and unwholesome as a packet of potato chips. Those dinosaurs didn't spring to life in his imagination. They existed only in a high-speed wireless connection, without which they would be as dead as . . . well, dinosaurs.

And I wonder about endless exposure to screens. Do we really think it will be healthy for our kids to spend hours and hours using e-books at school, on top of the time they already spend watching TV or playing electronic games? And will we then think it's okay for them to take an e-book to bed?

My generation used to laugh at our parents for trying to limit the hours we spent watching TV. That doesn't seem so silly now.

One of the things I love most about reading is the magical way it allows us to see impossible or unreal things in our imaginations, making the boring everyday world disappear completely for a while. But I was shocked to discover that some e-books might disappear in a puff of smoke themselves. Publishers have in mind to update textbooks every year as knowledge changes. That sounds exciting, but it means you mightn't get to keep your textbooks permanently. Unless you paid every year, they'd vanish, recalled by the publisher and software owner. You couldn't sell them at the community second-hand bookstore. And when something went out of e-print, how would you ever find it again?

#### A slide from the presentation



Source: J Wheeler

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No wonder there's a move by concerned book-lovers to build huge warehouses to preserve bound books. They fear the loss of knowledge, history, even culture itself, as the world is flooded with e-books that are accessible only through special software and that depend on the computer servers of the World Wide Web. If global cyber disaster struck, the loss would be unthinkable.

I have a fear, too, that e-books might increase the gap between rich and poor. Knowledge and education are a form of wealth. I hope expensive, energy-hungry e-reading devices don't become a new way of keeping some people ignorant, as in the bad old days before mass print technology made books cheaper.

Recently, I took the final Harry Potter story on a long and unpleasant flight to London, hoping it would shorten the trip. I opened the book and it worked! The plane, my fellow passengers, Earth below, instantly ceased to exist. Time itself began to fly.

In London I left the book in a red telephone box for anyone passing by who happened to want to read it. I felt a bit like a Harry Potter character myself, being able to make a free book appear from nowhere. By contrast, my e-books, which arrive by the modern wizardry of the internet, just sit silently on their virtual shelf when they're finished, instead of being part of the lending and sharing that traditionally goes on between people who love books.

Now I'm starting to sound a bit like a dinosaur myself, aren't I?

Nothing can stop the coming of e-books and I wouldn't want to stop it. I'll go on being an early adopter of new technology and new ways. But all of us who care about reading, and you young people as future leaders, we must all do what we can, as this revolution rolls over us, to make sure that important things are not entirely swept away.

### **Examination assessment criteria**

The examination will address all the criteria. Student responses will be assessed against the following criteria.

#### **Section A – Text response**

- detailed knowledge and understanding of the selected text, demonstrated appropriately in response to the topic
- development in the writing of a coherent and effective discussion in response to the task
- controlled use of expressive and effective language appropriate to the task

#### **Section B – Writing in Context**

- understanding and effective exploration of the ideas, and/or arguments relevant to the prompt/stimulus material
- effective use of detail and ideas drawn from the selected text as appropriate to the task
- development in the writing of a coherent and effective structure in response to the task, showing an understanding of the relationship between purpose, form, language and audience
- controlled use of language appropriate to the purpose, form and audience

#### **Section C – Analysis of language use**

- understanding of the ideas and points of view presented
- analysis of ways in which language and visual features are used to present a point of view and to persuade readers
- controlled and effective use of language appropriate to the task