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Draw a cross through the box (X) if you have NOT written in this booklet

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## SCHOLARSHIP EXEMPLAR



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

### Scholarship 2025 English

Time allowed: Three hours  
Total score: 24

### ANSWER BOOKLET

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should write THREE essays in this booklet, one from each section in Question Booklet 93001Q.

Begin each essay on a new page. Write the section, and the number of your chosen statements in Sections B and C, at the top of the page.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–24 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (///). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

## Page 1

Make sure you have paper Question Booklet 93001.

### INSTRUCTIONS

There are three sections in this examination:

- Section A: Close reading of unfamiliar texts
- Section B: Responding to literature and language
- Section C: Exploring issues in literature and language.

Write THREE essays in total, one from each section.

## SECTION A: CLOSE READING OF UNFAMILIAR TEXTS

Write an essay comparing the writers' treatment of nature in Text A and Text B.

### PLANNING

B I U     

### ANSWER

Write your answer to **Section A** in the box below.

B I U     

As humans in our modernized world, it can be easy to forget about the nature we are surrounded by. Text A and B have vastly different stances of the presence and use of nature in our society are own lives today.

Nature is beautiful and must be cherished and therefore preserved. We like to think that as humans we are separate from nature, but Keri Hulme shows us through an extract from *One Whale Singing* that we are more interconnected than we may expect. The wondrous tone with which she writes is to connect with the reader to implore them to regard nature the same way she does by approaching everything with curiosity and attention. "Diatoms of phantom light, stray single brilliances" conveys the beauty of nature when you stop and be present and consider the smaller parts of the bigger picture. So caught up are we in our fast paced digital life, that stopping for a moment allows us to discover the joys of what is right in front of us. We explore the idea of nature through the third perspective of a watcher describing the whale, but we also hear descriptions of the whale's thoughts and feelings where she can see "colours known only from dreams", adding not only to the awe the whale has towards us but also the awe we should have towards the whale as we are different creatures but live in the same exact world. We can become complacent with the world we live in, and taking the perspective of the whale allows us to see that everything is exciting if we choose to embrace it that way. This spirituality and connectedness with nature is again explored through the "memories that are bone deep" in the whale. The idea of these memories integrated into our very being is a notion that is significant in many of our cultures as humans, where our legacy and our place on earth are only due to the ancestors that came before us. Towards the end of the text we feel a tone shift as the killing of whales is described. The female whale "mourning for a male" as he dies in "thrashing agony" as the barbs "sunk into his flesh by the heart" are highly emotive uses of language to support Hulme's point that other creatures also feel, this is not something unique to

humans. Hulme emphasises that not only do we live in the same world as these graceful creatures, we are also similar with them in many ways through our innate curiosity, sociability, and emotions.

It is undeniable, however, that our capability for the manipulation of nature is what led to us being here today. In *Women love me, fish fear me*, Jordan Hamel explores the necessity of the ocean for our way of living, however he does so through an entirely different tone and perspective than Hulme does. While Hulme focusses on the interconnectedness of humans and nature, Hamel focusses on the uses of nature as his career as a fisherman who has been "trawling this shoreline for centuries". His matter of fact, humorous tone serves as a stark contrast to Hulme's deeply emotional response to nature. "I often dream of the creature from *The Shape of Water*, I bet he tastes amazing with vinegar" shows the lack of seriousness with which Hamel regards the fishing industry. Fish are simply regarded as food to eat or sell to others, and to him a human shaped fish would be just as good or better for this cause. Hamel's reasons for these absurd ideas is clear as we see through his listing that this is his way of lifestyle and is how he supports him and his family. Fishing we see is even a way to connect with others as he passes down his knowledge to his children on "how the seaweed slips through sand" or how "light refracts on the water". The skill and experience the narrator has does invoke a sense of appreciation for the art and skill of fishing that the narrator has. Hamel displays how fishing is a large source of food for us and we should feel thankful for the ones who source this food. This is especially as we even feel a sense of nostalgia as the narrator describes being out in the sea "roughhousing in the dingy", even fishing can be fun with the right people.

The biggest difference between Text A and Text B is that in Text B Hamel largely sees nature as something to be monetised and used whereas in Text A Hulme sees nature as something to be preserved and carefully considered. They both are able to achieve this through their different tones, with Hulme having a tone filled with wonder and excitement but also sorrow of the, whereas Hamel's tone is highly humorous and not meant to be regarded as serious.

While I believe both texts are valuable for exploring the different aspects of nature, I believe that Text A was a more effective text because of its emotive diction that enabled me to gain a new sense of appreciation for nature. Text B showed me a more humorous and light hearted way to make sense of your career and use of nature, but Text A had a much bigger impact on my understanding of our interconnectedness with nature as something to be cherished.

## Page 2

### SECTION B: RESPONDING TO LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

Write an essay in response to ONE of the statements below. Use the statement as the focus for an in-depth discussion of an appropriate text or texts.

*Note: No content or quotations used in your answer to this section should be repeated in Section C.*

#### STATEMENTS (Choose ONE)

- ☐ Poetry lies in an inaccessible marshland; there are no pathways, no signposts.
- ☐ Truth in film is sometimes clearest when slightly out of focus.
- ☐ The greatest and most beautiful stories in the history of humanity are works of non-fiction.
- ☐ In any novel, the experience of the masses is behind the single voice.
- ☐ Interactive texts open a new domain for persuasion; they realise a new form of rhetoric.
- ☒ Short stories hand you the pieces and what you build is up to you.
- ☐ Shakespeare was not a deep thinker or a great psychologist or a subtle philosopher. What he was, was a very great poet.
- ☐ In a television series, the story is not as important as the way that it is told.
- ☐ "In plays, the truth is rarely pure and never simple." (paraphrasing Oscar Wilde)

#### PLANNING

**B** *I* U

algernon daniel keyes

i hate that mouse, please if you get a chase put some flowrs on algernons grave  
i want to be smart, i want to be loved  
everybody laughs at me, everybody seems to be frightened of me

--> open ended, jsut shown what happens (plot)

omelas usula k le cruin  
perhaps it would be best if you imagined your own fancy bids  
they walk away into the darkness  
the air of morning is so clear, the room has no windows and the door is locked

--> lack of worldbuilding and purposely vague (no plot)

## ANSWER

Write your answer to **Section B** in the box below.

B I U     

The beauty of short story lies in its ability to focus on and explore one sole aspect of literature rather than fleshing out an entire world, characters, and plot. Short stories act as a snapshot in time, deliberately leaving the reader with often more questions than answers. This ambiguity are simply the pieces, and like a jigsaw puzzle, the reader is left to reflect on the story and its relevance to their own lives to put the pieces together and construct their own understanding of the text.

One joy of short stories is its ability to focus purely on one character and their journey in a condensed timeframe. *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes utilises the short story format in order to show a sharp change in order to make the reader feel for the narrator, Charlie Gordon. Charlie is a mentally disabled adult and is the subject of an experiment to triple his intelligence. It is only through his epistolary diary recounts and the brevity of his story that Keyes' true impact shines through. From a shift in his understanding of the world, Charlie initially just "wants to be smart" as he aspires to be like those around him so that he will be liked- before discovering that his new intelligence only isolates him from others. Devastatingly, Charlie understands that "everybody laughs" at him because of the mistakes he makes but now that he's intelligent "everyone seems to be frightened" of him because they are unsettled by his change and that he is now more intelligent than themselves. Keyes' short story is to question society's treatment of other people, and the importance we place on intelligence rather than human compassion and care as Charlie comments that now he only "wants to be loved". *Flowers for Algernon* deliberately does not develop or describe the world that Charlie lives in as the relevant takeaway is his journey and what it has shown us about the need for connection and the harshness with which we target those behind their backs. For a short story, extensive world building is not necessary to get the point across. We never find out what happens to Charlie after the experiment begins fails and his mind and body deteriorates as the story abruptly ends before that fully happens. This is an intentional choice by Keyes in order to make us reflect on the short experience. In that way, short stories are just like out own lives where we do not have the answers to everything but can only be presented with a small part of the story and figure out how the pieces fit together on our own terms.

Short stories do not even need to have plot development in order to be effective at spreading a message. They do not need to have clear worldbuilding established. In *The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas* by Ursula K Le Cruin, the setting of the short story is kept extremely vague and there is no semblance of a typical story structure with the expected conflict and resolution, unlike *Flowers for Algernon* which still has a plot. In *The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas* we are simply presented with a concept. Omelas is a supposed utopia where everybody there is happy, yet we aren't even explicitly told what makes Omelas so special. Written in second person, the narrator tells the reader that it's best if Omelas is "imagined as your own fancy bids". Le Cruin's point isn't about what an ideal world is, but it is to criticize those who believe that an ideal world even exists. Because nothing good ever comes without a cost. The nature of the short stories allow for a drastic shift of tone from the wonderful world of Omelas to the basement, a "room with no windows and the door is locked" that houses a child. This child is a contrast to the adults of Omelas, who are supposedly "mature, intelligent and passionate" whereas the child is an "imbecile through fear, neglect, and malnutrition". The stark shift in tone and contrast between an adult who should know better and an innocent child is powerful social commentary on taking advantage of those less fortunate than ourselves. Because "everybody [in Omelas] understands that their happiness depends wholly on this child's abominable suffering", yet they still choose to stay for their own gain. Le Cruin criticizes the complacency with which our developed countries and privileged individuals fall into acts of consumerism and turning a blind eye when it doesn't suit us. From the clothes we wear through fast fashion and sweat shops and the products we buy from underpaid child labour, we are all guilty of enabling suffering. In order to do so, the world of Omelas is deliberately kept vague so that it is easily applicable to our own. However, we are always presented with a decision. The last line of the short story reveals that some of the citizens of Omelas walk away "into the darkness" and never return again. Like in *Flowers for Algernon*, the ending is not fleshed out so that we know what happens afterwards. We have no idea what happens to these people who leave and where they go, and if the child ever makes it out of the basement. This is entirely Le Cruin's point as it is not about the plot and story, it is about the concept and the ideas it shows us and we are meant to take the pieces and reflect on ourselves and our actions in society.

Short stories are a unique form of literature because they do not require to be fully fleshed out in order to have in impact. In fact, it is often the texts that are deliberately kept vague and open ended that leaves the audience to think deeply about one concept. Whereas longer texts may have more events and tribulations, short stories allow for the sole focus on one idea in order to fully communicate the author's point and as a result, enable the reader gain a further understanding of our world.

## Page 3

### SECTION C: EXPLORING ISSUES IN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

Write an essay in response to ONE of the statements below. Use the statement as the focus for an in-depth discussion of a **range of texts**.

*Note: No content or quotations used in your answer to this section should be repeated in Section B.*

#### STATEMENTS (Choose ONE)

- ☐ Good writing is knowing what belongs. Bad writing is everything else.
- ☐ Literature turns the ordinary into something we finally see truly.
- ☐ "One of writing's greatest magics is to allow us to slide outside the trap of time." (David Taylor)
- ☒ The twin purposes of literature are to make sense of pain and to fathom the sources of joy.
- ☐ "One writes out of one thing only – one's own experience." (James Baldwin)
- ☐ Literature can give us a glimpse of another culture's patterns of thinking.
- ☐ Ideas travel further than the pages that first held them.

#### PLANNING

B I U

The twin purposes of literature are to make sense of pain and to fathom the sources of joy

Joker

those who have made something of our lives will always regard those who haven't as nothing more but clowns  
they don't fucking care about me

--> sense of pain: elite wealthy vs struggling lower class, violence  
sources of joy: unity as humans, shared cause

Frankenstein

abhorred monster  
confusion of senses  
unable to remain in the same room with such a wretch

--> sense of pain: prejudice, violence  
sources of joy: only given by the creature to others, altruism  
took the tools, saw it caused them harm so stopped,

## ANSWER

Write your answer to **Section C** in the box below.

B I U     

Everything in life is a balance. Joy and goodness simply can not exist without pain and suffering so both need to be present. Literature is a medium that acts as a mirror to our own lives as works of texts are carefully crafted by author's from their own thoughts and experiences. It is therefore through literature that we can see both humanity at its best and at its worst, and understand why we feel pain in order to make room for seeking out joy.

If humans should be capable of goodness, why do so many inflict pain onto others? Why do we so easily turn to violence over reason? The power of literature lies in its ability to help us understand the complex and nuanced nature of humans and as a result our treatment or rather mistreatment of others. *Joker (2019)* explores Arthur Fleck's rise into the classic DC villain Joker. Joker acts with total anarchy, violence, and chaos with no apparent reason or care for any of his actions, but this film gives insight into his real motives. The city of Gotham is falling into ruin and this is no more obvious than through the contrast in settings between the elite wealthy and the struggling lower class. Whereas the wealthy areas are lush, ordered, and neat, the lower class live in a dirty city with broken infrastructure, garbage and rats, and violent youth. And here is where we begin to make understanding of the pain and struggle of humans, as like in our own society, in Gotham classism is prominent and continues to prevail. A common belief by the privileged is that "those who have made something of our lives will always regard those who haven't as nothing more but clowns", that they have worked hard enough to get where they are, even though the lower class are in a capitalist society that ensure to benefit only the already wealthy and leave the rest struggling and static. From this idea we not only make sense of why Joker acts the way he does, but also what is deeply painful to the human- being treated like dirt while others blame your character rather than sympathise with your circumstance. So in a world that is full of this kind of suffering, it is a wonder where we can still find joy. For the Joker, we see that his joy is not through having compassion for those that wronged him, but it is in finding a sense of community and banding together for a shared cause. While yes, Joker sets the city on fire with riots in the street, we find that this is his source of joy in life, finding his own absurdist purpose and connecting with other people even if it means inflicting harm. By making sense of the root of suffering, *Joker (2019)* shows that the source of joy in life is not necessarily through compasison but rather about feeling like you belong and have value as an individual.

Oftentimes, we like to believe that we are fair and just creatures. Oftentimes, we place ourselves on a pedestal above other creatures, and believe we should be free from scrutiny. This false belief only inflicts pain onto others. In *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, this arrogance is prevalent through the scientist Victor Frankenstein who toys with the creation of life by forming a creature out of human body parts before immediately abandoning him. The creature, while brought into life infant-like and harmless with a "confusion of senses" is met with abject horror and disgust from his own creator who is "unable to remain in the same room with such a wretch." This unwarranted pain of rejection is enough to make anybody turn off other people. However, the creature, who displays more humanity than his creator, still initially seeks out the love and attention from other people to show that, like in *Joker (2019)*, this is at our core what we need. It is his altruistic tendencies of "taking the tools" to gather resources for an impoverished family that we find one of the sources of joy in humanity. Helping other people. This, however, doesn't last. The creature is constantly met with terror and violence simply upon sight and, unable to seek out the connection he desires, he eventually becomes the monster that they fear him to be. The pain of the creature can be used to relate to the pain we feel in our own society where prejudices such as racial or gender stereotypes only force people into these boxes until they end up becoming these stereotypes. Not because they want to, but because they have no other option that people will allow them to exist as. Because as the creature notes, "if I cannot inspire love, I will create fear". It is only through this text that we are able to see the source of joy being at its root an innate desire to be understood, and the sense of pain we feel when this is not attainable.

Literature serves to provide an outlet from which we as the consumers are able to relate to characters and their experiences. It is through both their pain and their joy that we are able to make understanding of our own pain and joy and where these stem from. Through this we are able to reflect on our bias and mistreatment of other people, as well as the fundamental care and connection we need to experience in our lives, as to be human is to desire love.

## Scholarship

**Subject:** English

**Standard:** 93001

**Total score:** 15

| Q | Score | Marker commentary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 05    | <p>Texts A and B are explored in a controlled, measured way with comparison of how the writers treat nature. The response answered the question with a degree of success. The candidate demonstrated understanding of the comedic value of Hamel's poem but also appreciate the sense that Hamel is discussing and celebrating a wider view of nature. The response did not see the texts in a binary way, but saw both writers dealing with the concept of nature as something to cherish and yet treat seriously. It considered Text A with a valid argument and drove a clear analysis throughout. The response was critical in its voice but a little straightforward at times.</p> <p>For a higher grade, the response required more synthesis and a woven argument between each text would have been valuable.</p> |
| 2 | 05    | <p>This response demonstrated a clear understanding of the short story genre as an entity in its own right. The response is intelligent in its presentations and uses of texts, with interwoven references that show an awareness of how meaning is shaped through form as well as content. While stronger synthesis across texts would have strengthened the response, each paragraph engaged with the statement with reasonable accuracy and maintained a clear line of argument throughout, resulting in a competent and well-controlled response at this level.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3 | 05    | <p>In this response both parts of the statement, joy and pain, were addressed in a connected and meaningful way, with the response treating them as interlocking rather than opposing ideas. The response demonstrated a secure and confident understanding of the texts, which were used purposefully and clearly to support and sustain the central thesis. Ideas were developed coherently, with textual discussion consistently reinforcing the argument rather than distracting from it, resulting in a controlled and convincing response.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |