



education

Department:
Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GRADE 12

**NATIONAL
SENIOR CERTIFICATE**

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE PAPER 2

MEMORANDUM

EXEMPLAR 2009

MARKS: 80

This memorandum consists of 19 pages.

NOTE

- **This marking memorandum is intended as a guide for markers.**
- **The memorandum will be discussed with the marking panel before marking commences at the marking centre.**
- **Candidates responses must be considered on their merits.**
- **Contextual Questions**
Answers to contextual questions must be assessed holistically in the light of the discussion during the standardisation of the marking memorandum. Part marks should be awarded in proportion to the fullness of the response to each question.

SECTION A**PRESCRIBED POETRY: ESSAY QUESTION****QUESTION 1. i thank You God for most thls amazing: e e cummings**

By writing this poem, e e cummings reaffirms his faith and belief in God.

Discuss this statement critically.

In your answer you could consider some or all of the following aspects:

- *The poet's attitude to faith in God.*
- *How the poet presents these thoughts in the poem.*
- *Structure: sonnet form.*
- *Poetic devices, such as diction, tone, punctuation, imagery and any other devices you might feel are significant.*

Use the following, among others, as a guide to answering this question. Responses might differ, depending of the candidate's sensitivity to and understanding of the poem and the poet's intention.

- The poet sees God in nature. The day becomes a special one for him as he looks around at all that God has created. This affirms his belief in the omnipotence of God as the Creator of all things. It is a poem of praise and thanks. The poet feels that he has undergone something akin to a process of renewal. He feels that he perceives and understands all things related to God and creation with enhanced clarity.
- Complex thought patterns.
- Images drawn from the world of nature.
- Praise for God's natural creation.
- Direct address to God.
- Emotive language.
- Appeal to the reader's senses.

- Poetic language, as opposed to everyday speech.
- Unusual word order that has to be interpreted.
- Sonnet form: three quatrains and a couplet – develops thoughts.
- Asides in brackets.
- Lack of formal punctuation.
- Some attempt at rhyme, although not always clear.
- Quick rhythm that moves the poem along at a pace.

[10]**PRESCRIBED POETRY: CONTEXTUAL QUESTION****QUESTION 2. TO ME, FAIR FRIEND... (SONNET 104): WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

- 2.1 *Discuss the theme of the destructive influence of time in this sonnet.* (3)
Shakespeare suggests that time is able to destroy beauty. There is an indication of the passing of time as being able to erode beauty and youth. However, there is also the suggestion that the recipient of the poem seems not to have aged significantly.
- 2.2 *Explain how the poet uses the seasons to show the passing of time.* (3)
The seasons show the passing of time, the aging and dying process that accompanies winter following on the birth of new life ('spring') and growth ('summer').
- 2.3 *Explain the change that comes about in lines 9 - 12 ('Ah, yet doth ... may be deceived').* (2)
The poet acknowledges the aging process, as opposed to the octet in which he imagines that the friend has not aged noticeably. There is an inevitability of fading beauty that comes with the passing of time.
- 2.4 *Show how the rhyming couplet serves to sum up the poet's attitude to age and changing beauty.* (2)
This sums up the argument, providing a possible explanation. The poet suggests that the beauty of the friend is so great that it can never be surpassed, even in ages to follow. Also a reference to the inevitability that change (and age/the loss of beauty) must come to all.
For 1 mark only. It is also the convention requirement of a Shakespearian sonnet.

[10]

PRESCRIBED POETRY: CONTEXTUAL QUESTION**QUESTION 3. REFUGEE MOTHER AND CHILD: CHINUA ACHEBE**

- 3.1 *Discuss what the speaker sets out to share with the reader in this poem.* (3)
The poet describes a sad and moving scene that involves a particular mother and child, the refugees of the title. However, the child is dying, although the mother will not acknowledge this fact. It shows the tenderness of her love in the last moments of the child's life.
- 3.2 *Explain how lines 4 – 8 ("the air was ... blown empty bellies") relate to the title of the poem.* (2)
These lines show the plight of the person in exile. The children are starved. Their bellies are swollen. The air smells of foul excreta. As refugees this mother and child must accept their plight. There is nothing else to do.
- 3.3 *Comment on the use of everyday, almost conversational, language used by the speaker.* (2)
Readers are able to relate more easily to the reality of the situation the poet describes. It emphasises the horror of the moment and also the pathos of what is happening. He is describing a real scene that demands to be confronted.
- 3.4 *Refer to lines 16 – 21 (In another life ... a tiny grave"). Discuss how, by using a comparison, the poet heightens the sense of sadness in these lines.* (3)
The poet compares the present poignant situation, as the mother sits in hope with the dying child, to circumstances as they should have been, with the child cared for, going to school and living an untroubled life – as all children should have the right to expect. The sadness of the dying child is heightened by the stark reality of the present. [10]

PRESCRIBED POETRY: CONTEXTUAL QUESTION**QUESTION 4. IF YOU DON'T STAY BITTER AND ANGRY FOR TOO LONG:
CHARLES MONGOSHI**

- 4.1 *State why it may be said that this is a 'poem of memories.'* (3)
The poet remembers and writes about things that happened in the past. These were the times of colonial rule. He remembers not only the natural environment but also the people, family, with whom he had contact.
- 4.2 *Discuss the importance of the word 'salvage' in the context (line 3).* (3)
The word suggests to recover, retrieve, save or reclaim. Any of these meanings suggest that there is something to rescue from the past – something useful that can be constructive in the present and taken into the future.

4.3 *Explain how, in the last stanza, the poet also makes a comment about how people could live their lives.* (2)

The poet suggests that if we can overcome our old prejudices and problems, we might be able to reclaim something worthwhile. This relates to the idea of age ('autumn') bringing understanding.

4.4 *Discuss the effect of the repetition of the line, "If you don't stay bitter / and angry for too long" (lines 1- 2 and 20 – 21).* (2)

These lines emphasise the idea of a cycle. It brings unity and closure. It shows the reader that there is something worthwhile to claim back from the past.

[10]

UNSEEN POETRY: POETRY FROM AFRICA

QUESTION 5. *A train on the horizon: BAROLONG SEBONI*

UNSEEN POETRY: ESSAY

Show how, by the careful use of words and imagery, the poet is able to create a picture of a train on the horizon.

In your answer you could consider some or all of the following aspects.

- *The description of the desert.*
- *Central image from the world of sewing.*
- *The appearance of the train.*
- *The 'zip' image.*

Use the following, among others, as a guide to answering this question. Responses might differ, depending of the candidate's sensitivity to and understanding of the poem and the poet's intention.

- The poet uses images drawn from the world of clothing and sewing.
- In the opening stanza the desert is metaphorically compared to khaki canvas, thus suggesting colour and the rough feel of the endless sand.
- The sky, to which the desert is 'stitched', is blue.
- The desert and sky meet at the 'hem', suggesting the point where heaven meets the sand.
- In describing the dunes and bushes the poet describes them as being 'sewn in silhouette' as the sun sets.
- The appearance of the train is suggested by the 'loose thread of smoke'.
- This, in turn, 'unseams the horizon', causing a rift in the seamless representation suggested in the previous stanza.
- Now the train appears as a 'zip' that is able, as it moves, to 'rend the desert from the sky', breaking apart the picture of tranquillity and endlessness suggested in the opening of the poem.
- The train is an intrusion on the quietude and harmony of nature.

[10]

OR

UNSEEN POETRY: CONTEXTUAL**QUESTION 6. *A train on the horizon: BAROLONG SEBONI***

- 6.1 *Describe the picture created by the poet in the opening stanza.* (3)
The poet describes the colour of the desert ('khaki canvas') and the way in which the sky seems to be sewn onto the horizon. He tells the reader that the bushes and dunes stand out against the setting of the sun.
- 6.2 *Comment on the description of the train in lines 7-8 ("a loose thread ... unseams the horizon")* (2)
The small wisp of smoke is seen first, as the train begins to divide the scene described in the first stanza.
- 6.3 *Clarify how the word 'zip' (line 9) fits into the pattern of imagery used throughout the poem.* (3)
The word is associated with clothing. Throughout the poem the poet uses imagery related to sewing. However, a zip opens, whereas in the rest of the poem there is a sense of things being sewn together.
- 6.4 *Express your opinion on the appropriateness of the choice of title for this poem.* (2)
The title explains what is happening in the poem. A train appears on the horizon as the sun is setting in the desert. Its appearance breaks the tranquillity and harmony of the natural scene [10]

TOTAL SECTION A: 30

SECTION B: NOVEL**QUESTION 7. ANIMAL FARM: Essay Question**

The Seven Commandments may be said to be the key to an understanding of Animal Farm.

Discuss this statement, relating your answer to the changes to the commandments and to the situation on the farm.

In your answer you could consider some or all of the following aspects.

- *The importance and content of the Seven Commandments.*
- *The changes that take place over time.*
- *How the Commandments are accepted by the animals*
- *The final result: the venture on Animal Farm has failed.*

Here is the basis for answering this essay. Use the following as a guideline only. However, also allow for answers that are different, original and show evidence of critical thought and interpretation.

- The Seven Commandments form the basis for the new venture.
- They become a kind of ‘constitution’ for the new order.
- The philosophical basis of the commandments is different from the understanding that existed on the farm in Jones’s time – and so the animals value them, and refer to them when new situations present themselves.
- The commandments are born out of a need to defy Jones and his regime on the farm.
- They become crystalised in the litany: ‘Four legs good, two legs bad’ which the sheep constantly bleat. This eventually becomes ‘Four legs good, two legs better.’
- But as changes are made these are presented to the animals linking back to the menace of those times: killing other animals is justified if they have supposed links with Snowball who is linked to Mr Jones. ‘Documents are found proving Snowball’s complicity with Mr Jones during the Battle of the Cowshed.
- The disintegration of the ideals of Animal Farm can be traced through the adaptation of the Seven Commandments.
- The final adaptation of ‘All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others’ is a clear indication that Animalism has been replaced by Humanism and that the exciting venture has failed.
- The commandments may themselves have been the problem on Animal Farm in that they were very dogmatic in their structure.

[25]

QUESTION 8. Animal Farm: Contextual Question

- 8.1 *Describe the events that have taken place immediately before this extract.* (3)
Snowball has been chased away from the farm by Napoleon's dogs.
Napoleon changes some of the rules and takes more autocratic control of the farm. The animals build the windmill.
- 8.2 *Comment on the irony in the fact that Napoleon 'mounted onto the raised portion of the floor where Major had previously stood to deliver his speech'.* (2)
Old Major had begun the liberation of the animals from the tyranny of Jones. It is ironical that the next tyrant should choose to speak from the same platform as the liberator of Animal Farm.
- 8.3 *Explain why the statement '... there would be no more debates' (line 10) is significant in the wider context of the novel.* (2)
Democracy is dead on Animal Farm. Equality is gone. The situation is returning to what it was before for the animals.
- 8.4 *Give a reason for the importance of the revolutionary song 'Beasts of England' at this stage in the novel.* (2)
It is the radical song which cemented the early rebellion. It unifies the animals.
- 8.4 *Show how the expulsion of Snowball is significant to the present situation on the farm.* (2)
Not all animals are equal, and some animals could be in jeopardy from other animals. There has been a change in the original situation and the principles upon which Animal Farm was based.
- 8.5 *Discuss critically the tone Squealer uses throughout his speech.* (3)
It is a tone of authority. It is stern and forceful. It is also a cautionary tone.
- 8.6 *State why the growling of the dogs stops the pigs.* (2)
The four young pigs witnessed Snowball's fate. The growling would present a fierce warning that they, too, could experience the same fate.
- 8.7 *'Do not imagine, comrade, that leadership is a pleasure!' (line 27)*
Discuss why this is an example of the language dictators might use. (3)
Napoleon DOES enjoy leadership. The nature of dictators is being examined and exposed in a humorous, mocking way. Also, the gullibility of the animals in their instant acceptance of the statement is being satirised.

- 8.8 *Napoleon and Squealer use many different strategies in their quest to take over the leadership of Animal Farm. List two of these and explain their effectiveness.* (3)

Napoleon uses takes away from the animals the ability to voice their thoughts and needs or concerns. He creates elite bodies which he controls to run the affairs of Animal Farm. He uses the dogs to enforce his wishes – they are agents of threat and violence. Squealer speaks to smaller groups of animals, and praises Napoleon’s seeming sacrifices that he makes on behalf of the animals. He also warns of a world of menace if the animals make foolish choices. He also diminishes Snowball’s past glories.

- 8.9 *Discuss how this passage anticipates events that follow in the story.* (3)

It warns of the changes that are taking place. Animal farm is not a haven for all animals any longer. Under Napoleon’s rule it will be no better than under the rule of farmer Jones.

[25]

QUESTION 9. PRIDE AND PREJUDICE: ESSAY

The characters of Elizabeth and Darcy undergo transformations during the course of the novel.

Discuss how, for both characters, personal pride and prejudice stand in the way of eventual acceptance, happiness and marriage for much of the story.

In your answer you could consider some or all of the following aspects.

- *Elizabeth: has personal prejudice in prejudging people. How pride leads to prejudice and misunderstanding, especially regarding Elizabeth’s relationship with Darcy.*
- *Darcy: his belief in class superiority and tendency to judge too quickly and too harshly. The process Darcy must undergo in order to come to terms with his pride and personal prejudice.*

Here is the basis for answering this essay. Use the following as a guideline only. However, also allow for answers that are different, original and show evidence of critical thought and interpretation.

- **Elizabeth** too ready to judge and classify. As an observer, she is critical of others. She trusts her own observations, personal pride and preconception.
- Pride is the character’s major flaw. She prejudices people as simple and shallow or intricate, amusing and witty.
- She is sometimes too outspoken, speaking before she carefully considers situations.
- Pride makes her dislike Darcy at the time of their first meeting. She sees him as having an inflated opinion of his own worth, aloof, distant and unfriendly, disagreeable. She categorises him as snobbish, with a strong sense of self-superiority.
- Pride leads to prejudice – and intolerance.

- She rejects his proposal of marriage as arrogant and selfish.
- She refuses to re-evaluate the man, falling back on her initial prejudice.
- She feels she is morally superior to Darcy.
- She continues to condemn him, rather than see the man of worth that he proves to be in the matter of Wickham and his marriage to Lydia.
- She now sees Darcy as a man worthy of her admiration – and love. She has conquered her pride and prejudices.
- Darcy makes Elizabeth analyse her feelings, change her emotional state and acknowledge that her personal pride and prejudices can be overcome.
- She admits to Jane that she promoted her petty prejudice, that she has been weak and vain. She has matured.
- She accepts Darcy, seeing in him the perfect partner.

- **Darcy** is prejudiced against people of a lower social status. He believes in the natural superiority of the wealthy, landed gentry.
- He is quick to judge, too reserved in speaking his true feelings.
- He proposes, stressing his wealth, social status and position, while stressing the low position of her family.
- He appears arrogant and selfish, cold and aloof.
- Yet he is fact reserved, holding back from the frivolity of the others' social intercourse and small talk. He has a quiet personality.
- Darcy must think about and recognise his mistakes, and re-examine his attitude to Jane and Bingley.
- Darcy must transform by swallowing his pride and proposing again. He must acknowledge his arrogance and prejudice.
- Darcy must overcome his own prejudice against those of a lower social class. He must accept the Bennet family for all their inferior social status and silliness.

- **Elizabeth and Darcy** see past their own personal pride and prejudices, their own shortcomings, in order to make a successful marriage, based on mutual understanding and love.

[25]**QUESTION 10. PRIDE AND PREJUDICE: CONTEXTUAL**

10.1 *Describe the circumstances, earlier on, that lead up to this moment in the novel.*

(3)

The Bennet sisters have made friends with Bingley and his sisters, who have come to the area to spend time in the country. Jane has visited, but having ridden instead of using the carriage, she has developed a severe cold. This has kept her bedridden at the Bingley household. Elizabeth has walked over to see and be with her sister.

- 10.2 *Comment on what this extract reveals about the Bingley sisters.* (3)
The Bingley sisters are shallow and insincere. Although they profess to be Jane's friend, they talk about her behind her back. They are critical of her social status, as well as of her parents and family. They make fun of the Bennets, laughing and scorning their lack of status and breeding. The sisters are snobs, possessed of petty prejudices and false pride based on assumed social position.
- 10.3 *State what the talk about the Bennet family conveys of society's attitude to marriage in the context of the novel.* (3)
Society considered marriage to be based on social status and financial position. Because the Bennet family has members that work for a living, rather than having an established income and land, the girls have less chance of finding a superior and financially well-established husband.
- 10.4 *Refer to lines 19-20 ('But it must very materially lessen their chance of marrying men of any consideration in the world'). This remark comes early in the novel. Explain what it reveals about the character of Darcy.* (3)
At this stage, early in the novel, Darcy is still possessed of pride in his social position, the fact that he possesses property and is thus considered a man of substance. He appears to be snob, aware of social standing and his own importance. He shows his prejudice against those of a lower class less well connected socially.
- 10.5 *In reply to Darcy's words quoted in question 10.4, Bingley 'made no answer'. Explain why the match with Jane will eventually be a suitable one.* (3)
Although Bingley is also a man of social and economic standing, he shows none of the personal pride and prejudice of the others. He is unaffected. He is able to accept Jane for what she is: a charming and loving person. He is not a snob. They love one another almost from their first meeting and are well matched. Neither is effected by the pride or prejudices of others.
- 10.6 *Lady Catherine exclaims, 'I expected to find a more reasonable young woman' (lines 18 - 19). In terms of the novel as a whole, explain whether Lady Catharine's opinion of Elizabeth is justified.* (4)
Her opinion is not justified. During the course of the novel we find Elizabeth to a sensible, well balanced and intelligent young lady, with clear ideas of what she wants from life and marriage. She is independent and proud, but can also be wilful, with personal prejudices.
- 10.7 *Explain how the writer uses Lady Catherine to highlight the theme of prejudice.* (3)
She is a proud and unforgiving woman. She is arrogant. She is so aware of her own status that she is unable to accept anyone of a lower social class. She is a tyrant, unable to see Elizabeth for her personal worth and prejudiced against the Bennet family as inferior. This makes Elizabeth an unsuitable marriage partner for her nephew.

10.8 *Shortly after Lady Catherine's visit, Darcy proposes to Elizabeth. Discuss why this is likely to be a rewarding marriage.* (3)

It is a marriage of mutual respect and based on mutual love and understanding and not on social or economic convenience. They complement one another, share trust and are confident in what they have found: the result of a process that had to put aside pride and prejudice. [25]

QUESTION 11. THE GREAT GATSBY: ESSAY

During the course of the novel, Nick acts as a foil to Gatsby as both men's lives become increasingly entwined.

Discuss the character of Nick and his role as an observer.

In your answer you could consider some or all of the following aspects.

- *Nick as the narrator: he tells the story from his perspective.*
- *Nick is drawn into the corrupt world of Gatsby and his crowd.*
- *Gatsby: what he represents.*
- *Nick's final understanding of himself and his assessment of Gatsby.*

Here is the basis for answering this essay. Use the following as a guideline only. However, also allow for answers that are different, original and show evidence of critical thought and interpretation.

- Nick tells the story of Gatsby's final experiences. He is an onlooker and participant in the life of Gatsby. He gives an eye witness account of what happened in 1922.
- Nick comes East in order to work in the bond selling business and earn an honest living. He is open to new experiences.
- He comes from a well-to-do Mid-Western family. He is educated.
- He is an honest observer of the lives of others, yet he views their actions and shortcomings without criticism. He is tolerant. He reserves judgement.
- He has sound ethical values. He takes responsibility for his actions. He is mature. He is the moral centre of the novel.
- Nick is tolerant, considerate and possessed of personal integrity.
- He is an observer of the superficiality of the lifestyle of the rich and privileged, yet he seems to stand to one side and watch.
- He is sensitive to others and their needs.
- He is drawn into the corrupt and decadent world of New York in the early 20s by his involvement with Daisy, her immoral and faithless husband, Tom, and the dishonest Jordan. By association, he comes to know and admire Gatsby. He also has dealings with the Wilsons.
- Nick acts almost as a foil for Gatsby. Nick comes to understand the purity of this man's vision and he admires him for the single-mindedness with which he pursues this dream. He understands how the American Dream is intertwined with that of Gatsby – and he is witness to its downfall.
- Gatsby is everything that Nick is not. He is a criminal. He is a materialist, ostentatious, vulgar, ruthless and unscrupulous. Yet the purity of his dream allows Nick to admire him in the end, in contrast to others whom he thinks of as 'foul dust'.

- Nick's involvement with the Buchanans, Gatsby and Jordan, makes him decide to return to the West. His experience has brought him into contact with corruption, moral carelessness and selfishness. He has experienced death and degradation.
- He is scornful of the materialism and dishonesty that he encountered. He now condemns those people with whom he lived for that short period. For Nick, this has been a journey of self-discovery. He leaves the East a wiser and more disillusioned man, yet with his vision of the greatness of Gatsby intact. [25]

QUESTION 12. THE GREAT GATSBY: CONTEXTUAL

- 12.1 *This extract comes early in the novel, as Nick reflects on past events. Explain what Nick means when he says that 'Gatsby turned out all right at the end' (lines 10 – 11).* (4)
- Allow for some personal opinion. Gatsby, in his total dedication to his dream and Daisy, emerges at the end of the novel as a character of worth and dedication. He worked with true purpose to remake the person of James Gatz. We admire the purity of his dream and his absolute pursuit of it. Gatsby was inspired by a vision that raised him above ordinary people. However, it could be argued that, in spite of all his efforts, Gatsby lands up dead at the end of the novel. All his aspirations and dedication have been in vain. Daisy has gone off with Tom, and Gatsby is left only with the broken remnants of his dream.
- 12.2 *Discuss critically the image of the 'foul dust' that Nick uses to describe the people of East Egg (line 11).* (3)
- The metaphor looks at Tom and Daisy in particular, although the rest of the vulgar society is included. They are as dry as dust that is blown this way and that. They have no substance, no direction. They live only for the moment and personal gratification. They are morally empty, drifters in pursuit of pleasure.
- 12.3 *Explain whether Nick is a reliable witness and a dependable reporter of the events.* (3)
- Nick has sound personal values. He is moral, avoiding criticism of others. He is tolerant, an observer rather than an active participant – even though he comes close to being sucked into the corrupt society. He comes from privilege and does not need to pursue wealth and materialism. He is able to see through the artifice of Tom and Daisy, and the society in which they function. He is sensitive and honest. We respect his opinions, his tolerance and his belief in the people.
- 12.4 *Briefly relate the circumstances that have led up to this moment in the story.* (4)
- Daisy has come to visit Nick. This is the first time she and Gatsby meet again, after many years apart. Gatsby takes her to his house. She admires the wealth he has accumulated. He shows her around, coming to the bedroom.

- 12.5 *Discuss the importance of the shirts, in terms of the passing of time, for both Gatsby and Daisy, in the context of the novel.* (4)
For Gatsby, the shirts represent all the luxury and wealth he has accumulated. They are material symbols of all that he is offering Daisy. They are symbols of his success.
Daisy sees the shirts as an indication of Gatsby's dedication to her. They are symbols of the effort he has put into pursuing her and the dream of being with her again. They represent the dedication and effort he has put into aspiring to his dream of recreating the past.
- 12.6 *'Tom,' I enquired, 'What did you say to Wilson that afternoon?' (line 12). Explain the events that take place, earlier in the story, to which Nick is referring.* (3)
The circumstances relate to the killing of Myrtle when she runs out in front of the car that she assumes Tom is driving. Tom had told Wilson that it was Gatsby who had been driving. Tom wants to protect himself, so he implicates Gatsby. However, Tom is also unaware at this stage that it was Daisy driving, as when they left New York Gatsby was at the wheel. Gatsby is, in fact, innocent.
- 12.7 *In this extract Nick speaks of Tom and Daisy as 'careless people' (line 17,. Show how this term refers in particular to Daisy.* (3)
Daisy is beautiful and charming. She is also superficial and manipulative. She is easily influenced. She is indecisive. She enjoys the privileges that wealth brings. She is part of the decadent society. She is selfish, in pursuit of self-gratification. There is little depth of character. She is incapable of returning Gatsby's total devotion. She is not worthy of the dedication and commitment Gatsby brings.
- 12.8 *Discuss the important lesson that Nick has learnt here, at the end of the novel* (3)
Nick has had to come to accept that the past can never be recaptured. He has had to come to terms that people are materialistic and selfish, that dreams are shattered and laid waste. Nick has lost his confidence and innocence. [25]

TOTAL SECTION B: 25

SECTION C: DRAMA**QUESTION 13. OTHELLO: ESSAY**

Iago's skill at using people is extraordinary. Yet at the same time he had good fortune on his side in bringing about the downfall of Othello.

Discuss how Iago is able to manipulate people and events in his favour.

In your answer you could consider some or all of the following aspects.

- *The character of Iago and his plan to bring about the downfall of Othello.*
- *Desdemona's innocence: how Iago is able to use her unfailing love, loyalty and devotion to her husband.*
- *Iago's manipulation of Cassio and Roderigo, both easy victims of his strategy.*
- *How Iago is able to manipulate events to further his aims.*

Here is the basis for answering this essay. Use the following as a guideline only. However, also allow for answers that are different, original and show evidence of critical thought and interpretation.

- Iago is inherently evil. He is malicious, covetous, destructive and manipulative. He is amoral, possessed of a deep hatred, devoid of all love. Yet he is also a clever opportunist, using every possible chance to further his aim in bringing about the downfall of Othello.
- The fact that Othello married Desdemona was fortunate. It allowed Iago to stir up trouble by suggesting to her father the unsuitability of this marriage to a Moor.
- Later Iago is able to use the fact that, if Desdemona could be deceitful to her father, she could do the same to her husband.
- Yet Desdemona is innocent, chaste and trusting. She is unaware of how her pleas for Cassio's reinstatement are being manipulated by Iago.
- Othello is black. He is much older than Desdemona. Iago uses this as a means to plant the seeds of doubt in the mind of Othello.
- Othello is unaware of the more sophisticated ways of the Venetians. Iago is able to convince Othello that Desdemona is having a relationship with Cassio.
- Othello is an outsider, a soldier, desperately trying to come to terms with and understand the ways of a new and deep love.
- Othello is a man unaccustomed to deception. He is trusting and loyal. Yet he is also uncertain of his wife's fidelity, a fact that makes him vulnerable and easy to manipulate. His jealousy overwhelms his better judgement and trust.
- Iago organises that Cassio be demoted. This allows him the opportunity to use Desdemona's friendship with Cassio as a means to convince Othello that she is in love with his lieutenant.
- Cassio is innocent of what is going on around him. He speaks only of his relations with Bianca, an opportunity Iago uses to convince Othello that Cassio is speaking of Desdemona.
- Roderigo is ready to be used on account of his infatuation with Desdemona. Iago easily draws Roderigo into his plot to overthrow Othello.
- Iago is fortunate in being able to use the handkerchief lost by Desdemona and found by chance by Emilia, who is too afraid of her husband to protest. **[25]**

QUESTION 14. OTHELLO: CONTEXTUAL

Read the following extracts and then answer the questions that follow.

- 14.1 *Explain why, at this moment, Othello finds it necessary to defend himself.* (3)
Othello has wooed and married Desdemona without her father's consent. Brabantio is angry, demanding that something be done about this secretive marriage. He accuses the Moor of having resorted to witchcraft to gain Desdemona's affection.
- 14.2 *Show how, in this speech, Othello's nobility is established.* (3)
Othello speaks with grace and dignity. He addresses the nobles with formality. He admits his shortcomings. He also admits to marrying Desdemona, yet he is not apologetic. Instead, he offers an explanation that will justify his love.
- 14.3 *Discuss how Othello, in this extract, admits to some of the limitations that will eventually lead to his downfall.* (4)
Othello is a soldier. He does not have the graces that the Venetians possess. He also admits to not being able to speak with the ease that the others show.
- 14.4 *Othello is a black man in a white Venetian society. Discuss how the question of race is used to undermine him.* (4)
Othello is the outsider. His culture and attitude to life are different. Although he seems to be accepted by the more sophisticated Venetians, they still treat him with suspicion and doubt, based on the fact that he is a Moor. Also, in marrying Desdemona, he has crossed the race barrier. This makes him more vulnerable to Iago's suggestions of Desdemona's supposed infidelity with Cassio.
- 14.5 *Explain the circumstances that have caused Othello to react in this harsh manner towards Desdemona.* (2)
Iago has succeeded in convincing Othello that Desdemona is guilty of infidelity with Cassio. He has told the Moor of Cassio's dream and used the stolen handkerchief as further evidence.
- 14.6 *Show how sympathy is created for Desdemona in this scene.* (3)
Desdemona speaks honestly and sincerely. She asks for proof of her infidelity. She proclaims again her love for her husband. She is modest and submissive, yet dignified.
- 14.7 *In lines 15 – 23 Othello speaks of his great pride ('Had it pleased ... unmoving finger at!').. Discuss how this is a contributing factor to his eventual choice to end his life at the conclusion of the play.* (3)
At the end of the play Othello realises how jealousy and arrogance have resulted in the murder of his wife. During the course of the play his great pride has been eroded by Iago's suggestions. Now Othello feels that, stripped of pride in himself, there is no purpose left in life.

- 14.8 *Comment on the change that has come about in the character of Emilia, after being under the influence of her husband for most of the play.* (3)
- During most of the play we see Emilia as submissive and deferential to her husband. She does his bidding. However, in this extract, she is seen as assertive, determined to speak the truth. She is prepared to accept the consequences of her actions. [25]

QUESTION 15. The Crucible by Arthur Miller: Essay

John Proctor is the character who shows the greatest growth in the play, The Crucible. Using this statement as the starting point, examine the extent to which the character of John Proctor develops during the course of the play.

In your answer you could consider some or all of the following aspects.

- *John Proctor is the main character and presents the audience with the morality of the play.*
- *His early portrayal: father, flawed husband, highly principled neighbour.*
- *Character development: chooses not to be involved with community but drawn in due to circumstances.*
- *Proctor eventually gives up his own life to save the lives of others.*

Here is the basis for answering this essay. Use the following as a guideline only. However, also allow for answers that are different, original and show evidence of critical thought and interpretation.

- John Proctor is the main protagonist of the story and its moral centre.
- He is a man who is able to control his feelings and hide what he feels from others.
- But he changes from being the man who is ashamed of his moments with Abigail, and who wants to hide them from his community; to the man who admits his affair in open court.
- He begins as a farmer who is trying to repair a fragile marriage.
- He ends as a man whose opinion is so valued by his community that other peoples' lives depend on it.
- He despises hypocrites and hypocrisy and yet is at times guilty of it himself. Thinks of himself as a fraud because of his inappropriate actions with Abigail Williams.
- He is self-contained – does not want to be involved with the affairs of others in his community.
- This changes when he tells Hale that he will testify in court as to what Abigail told him about the girls just dancing in the forest and that there was no witchcraft practised.
- And in the end he was willing not only to try and save everyone who was accused, but was willing to ruin his reputation doing so.
- He can easily discern foolishness and has the courage and determination to oppose it.

- He is a rational man with a brusque manner who has no qualms about expressing his opinion. A respected, powerful man in his community. He is almost feared by those around him because of his strength of character.
- He rejects superstition for rationality and is sceptical of the trappings of organized religion. He particularly disapproves of Reverend Parris's obsession with damnation and hell in order to strike fear into his parishioners.
- He tries to live his life in a good, God-fearing way, but fails in the sense that he is unfaithful to his wife. Although a devout man, he has been tempted into an affair with Abigail Warren.
- But by going to his death in the way that he does at the end of the play, he returns to himself his integrity. He is true to his principles at that point.
- He is different at the end of the play to the adulterer that we meet at the beginning of the play – he will tell the truth and die rather than save his life with a lie.
- So in summary, Proctor goes from not wanting to get involved with anything that didn't concern him, to trying to save all of those wrongly accused. He goes from keeping his affair a secret, to telling the entire court to save a few. In the end Proctor stands up for what he believes (that the girls are lying, and everyone is innocent), and dies for it. [25]

QUESTION 16. The Crucible by Arthur Miller: Contextual

Extract A

- 16.1 *Describe how it has happened that John and Elizabeth have become so uncomfortable in one others' presence.* (2)
John has had an affair with Abigail Williams and Elizabeth knows about it.
- 16.2 *In lines 10-11 the stage directions read: 'He gets up, goes to her, kisses her. She receives it. With a certain disappointment, he returns to the table.'*
Examine this moment between Elizabeth and John in the passage and show how it is typical of the state of their relationship. (3)
While they are trying to repair their marriage, it is clear that Elizabeth has not forgiven John's indiscretions. He kisses her, but her response is just to receive the kiss passively. He is disappointed and the division between them continues.
- 16.3 *Identify Elizabeth's feelings about what has happened, focusing especially on her replies to John.* (4)
She is hurt and uncommunicative. She does not show anger or aggression, but simply responds to his attempts at conversation. She finds it difficult to respond to his " I mean to please you, Elizabeth". He is the one trying to make conversation, and she limits herself to short, monosyllabic replies.

- 16.4 *Examine how seasonal imagery is developed in this passage, and suggest why Miller uses it in this scene.* (3)

Proctor is a farmer and would understand that as in nature, human affairs also have seasons. The Proctors' marriage is in a dormant winter period, but as John is planting seeds on the farm, he is trying to plant the seeds of trust and the foundation of a new marriage in this scene.

Extract B

- 16.5 *Discuss the circumstances that lead up to this moment in the play.* (3)

Elizabeth and John are both in jail. She is brought to him in an attempt to get him to confess to his charges.

- 16.6 *Explain why it is so important for the rest of Salem that John Proctor Confess* (2)

He is known to be a man of his word, and his confession will bring legitimacy to the charges of conspiring with the Devil and witchcraft against others in the community.

- 16.7 *Discuss what causes John Proctor's conflict and confusion in this passage.* (4)

Proctor wants to live but he also wants to keep his moral sense. To live, he would have to lie, saying that he was consorting with witches, which is untrue. However, to deny that, is going to cost him his life.

- 16.8 *Elizabeth's cries, 'I cannot judge you, John, I cannot!' (line 23). Explain whether you agree, or disagree, with Elizabeth's denial.* (4)

He knows that he is a man who has sinned. He knows that while he has principles and morals that he has not always kept to them, and he wants to move forward with integrity. To him, Rebecca is more devout and honourable than he is. But he is aware of how his actions will be seen by his community, as he knows what his reputation is in his community. He needs to be true to his principles.

[25]

TOTAL SECTION C: 25
GRAND TOTAL: 80