



Kirrawee high school  
New south wales

**2009**  
HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE  
MID COURSE EXAMINATION

# English (Standard) and English (Advanced) Paper 1 – Area of Study

## General Instructions

- Reading time – 10 minutes
- Working time – 80 minutes
- Write using blue or black pen

Total marks – 30

### Section I

Pages 2-7

15 marks

- Attempt Question 1
- Attempt ALL questions
- Allow about 40 minutes for this section

### Section II

Page 8

15 marks

- Attempt Question 2
- Allow about 40 minutes for this section

## **Section I**

**15 marks**

**Attempt Question 1**

**Allow about 40 minutes for this section**

Answer the question on the paper provided. Extra paper is available.

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In your answer you will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate understanding of the way perceptions of belonging are shaped in and through texts
  - describe, explain and analyse the relationship between language, text and context
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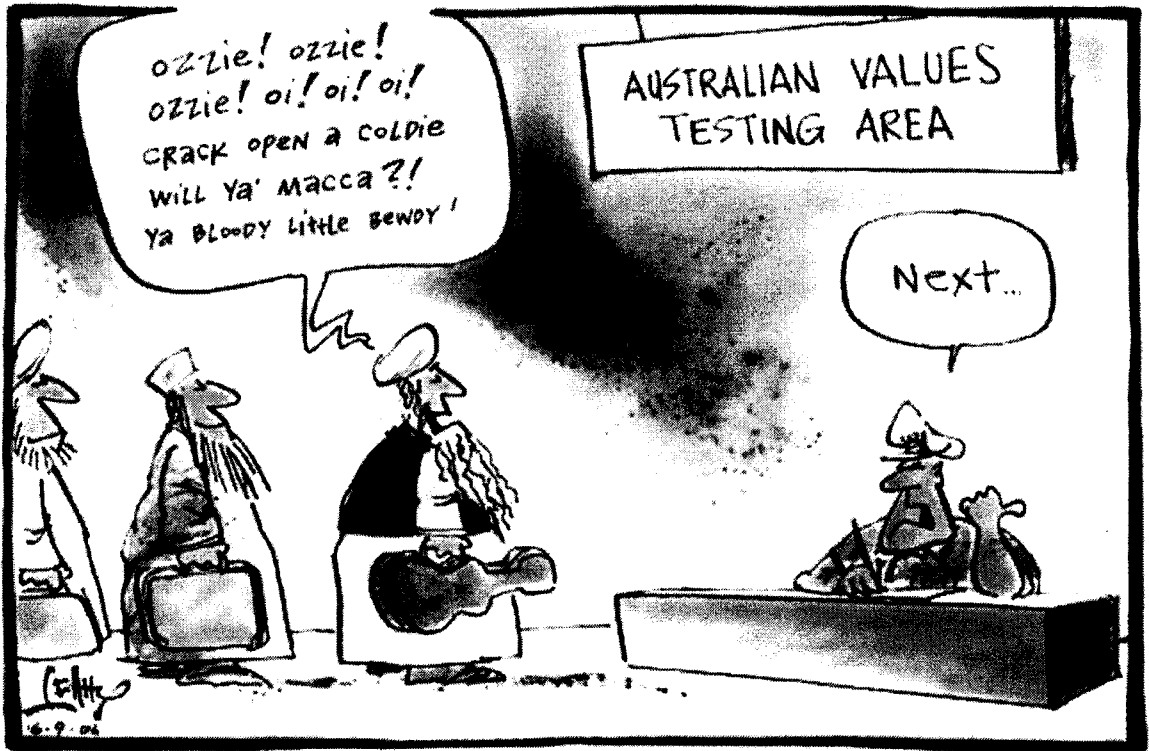
**Question 1 (15 marks)**

Examine **Texts one, two and three** carefully and then answer the questions on page 7.

**Question 1 continues on page 3**

Text one –

## The big tourist quiz



## Finding a Friend

By Indrani Ganguly

Finding friends in Australia wouldn't be too hard I thought  
The long arms of the Anglo-Celtic empires have touched us both.  
I speak English, can talk about cricket  
And of growing up with Enid Blyton, Superman  
Elvis Presley and the Beatles  
Shakespeare, Dickens and Hollywood movies  
Coca-Cola and cucumber sandwiches for afternoon tea.

But life said the little man on telly  
Isn't meant to be easy.  
Life at school  
Proved this everyday to me.  
English wasn't English without the Australian drawl  
Brown skin was cool as long as you weren't born with it  
I performed as a marionette on the multicultural stage.  
Costumes and curries became the defined boundaries of my self.  
Constraining and submerging the other elements of me  
Our lives and histories were encapsulated in *Sixty Minutes*  
Our own complex lived stories remained unheard.

My Australian schoolmates walked against want  
And fasted for forty hours to ease the hunger of the poor.  
But none seemed to see the hunger and want in their own school yards.  
The teacher talked about culture shock  
'Everything must be so different for you.'  
And I thought, 'Many things, but not everything.'  
And I can learn new ways if you don't lock me out'.

Then one day I found a magic key.  
In the music class I sang Brahms's Lullaby'.  
The Aussie girl who sat next to me  
Said, 'I've always loved that song,  
I'd also like you to be friends with me'.

Question 1 continues on page 5

## The Two of Us



**FEBRUARY 11, 2006** Isabella Longman, 96, was 73 when her Lebanese next-door neighbour and friend, Julie Hayek, died of breast cancer, leaving three daughters, aged 5, 8 and 11. With no children of their own, Isabella and her husband Tom informally adopted the girls, while their father Tony remained next door, in Belmore in south-west Sydney. The youngest girl, also Isabella, is now 28.

**Isabella H:** My parents were Lebanese immigrants who met here through the Maronite church. They moved into the house next door in about 1968. My mother and Mum – we've always called her Mum, everyone does – got on exceptionally well. My mother had no parents out here and Mum just loved her. By the time I was born, they'd developed such a strong bond, my mother named me after her. And we all loved Mum and Tom, from day one.

After my mother passed away, it was convenient for my father to have his three girls around but being looked after by the couple next door. He was a

Lebanese man of that generation where the male, the father, didn't have a big role in looking after the kids ... It's like, "I don't do that."

My mother had a sister in Hornsby who wanted to take us, but she had seven kids of her own under the age of 15 and I think my mother was kind of like, "You've got your seven kids. I don't want you to have 10."

Because this is only a two-bedroom place and my father's house is three-bedroom, [my sisters] Tammy and Mary slept at my father's but I slept here. Mary and Tammy would come here for dinner and to watch TV, and at 8.30pm Tom and Mum would walk

them next door to go to bed. Every night. In the morning the girls would come back over and Mum would get us ready for school.

At school, all the Arabic kids would bring their big Lebanese rolls, and I'd have my little Vegemite sandwich. Their mothers felt sorry for me and thought, "Isabel's not eating enough." They'd all bring food for me. So I was obese when I was young.

I loved the feeling of security here. There's a sunroom out the back and I remember the comfort of having Mum and Tom, Tammy, Mary and myself all sitting in there watching TV together. That whole family thing.

Tom died in 1991, when he was 96. It was terrible, for Mum in particular. They were the closest couple I've ever seen. I was brought up with two people loving each other desperately. For the last couple of years of his life he had to go into a nursing home because he'd had his leg amputated. Mum would visit him every day.

Mum had married late, at 33. She was

partying and having a good time before that. She's not your typical 96-year-old.

She lived a life. She'll tell us, "Live your life. Go out and have fun. Do what I did." I'm like, "Do I always have to have a good time, Mum? Can't I just sit home and be miserable for one day?"

These recent riots [at Cronulla] really upset her. She couldn't believe Aussies like that existed. One night she started yelling at the TV, "Unity? Unity? You want to see unity in the community? Come to our house." She's quite political.

Her health is good, touch wood. She went into hospital in 2002 or 2003 for a skin cancer. They asked when was the last time she was in hospital, expecting her to say two days ago or something. She goes, "Well, I think it was 1945."

She's so with it at her age. We recently got an indoor toilet – she had kept putting off getting one. And she goes, "Oh, Isabel, the builders have come in and they've done the shower wide enough so that when I'm older, if I need to put a chair in there to shower myself, I can."

I started laughing and she said, "Why are you laughing?" I said, "Did you hear yourself? You just said, 'When I'm older ...'" She said, "Yeah, what's funny about that?"

**Isabella L:** Things used to be so different. In our life, our early life, you helped everybody. Anybody that needed help. Julie came next door as a bride. I didn't have any children and she was like a daughter. We were very close to the family. They spent a lot of time with us and we both loved the girls.

Julie was sick for a long time. Isabel doesn't really remember her. I took the girls over to see their mother the day before she died. When we were leaving – oh, it was terribly sad – she said, "Mum, I'll die in peace knowing the girls have got you." I've never forgotten that. I can still hear her saying it.

We hadn't talked about it before that last day. I don't know what Julie's thoughts were.

I think there was just something between us, maybe – a closeness – that meant she knew how things would turn out. Those last words, that was all that was ever said. It just sort of happened after that. Their culture is different. As far as [their father] Tony was concerned, I think, it was taken for granted. The girls were just attached to us and there it was.

All three are lovely girls. Tammy was

11 when her mother died and I think she felt it the most. She realised there'd be a change in their lives and wasn't sure what would happen. Mary also knew her mother had gone. They slept in here afterwards and I found a note under Mary's pillow. It said: "Mary. My mother is dead. I am eight years old."

When we took them on, everybody said, "What on earth are you doing?" but it just didn't strike me that it was going to be any trouble and it hasn't been. We never thought about [officially adopting them]. They were just part of me. It wasn't necessary and I don't know whether the family would have agreed.

With the Lebanese, their way of bringing up children is different to the Australian way and some of the [people in that community] didn't like the freedom I was giving the girls. But some of the relatives won't have a word said against what I was doing. A few times Tony didn't agree with something and he'd refer to what his brother Michael did with his children, and I'd say, "Well, Tony, if that's the way you feel, you take your children and let Michael rear them." He never said another word.

Having them made our life more interesting. I wasn't able to have children. There was just a ... I forget the word, I couldn't conceive. It wasn't to be.

With all this [Cronulla] business going on recently ... that worried me a lot. I thought it was terrible the way

they carried on. It is possible for all nationalities to mix, regardless of colour. Being able to take these children like this just shows you it can be done.

They're very good to me now. I'm all right financially but the girls look after me. They've more than repaid me for what I've done.

I don't know how much longer I'll be around. I'll be 97 in March. My doctor wants me to live to 100 but I said to her, "I don't think I'll wait. It's a changed world, it's not the same." [The girls] are grown up now. Thank goodness. It would have been terrible if I'd left them behind when they were young.

FENELLA SOUTER

### Update:

An appearance on the *Today* show, a story in *Madison* magazine, calls from *Backyard Blitz* and *Australian Story* – and that was just the media. Isabella Longman and Isabella Hayek were astonished by the attention that followed their appearance in the *Two of Us*. Isabella the elder received calls from people she hadn't heard from for 40 years, and some *GOOD WEEKEND* readers, moved by their story of love and crossing the cultural divide, even sent flowers.

Isabella Longman, now 97, remains in good form after recovering from what doctors initially thought was a stroke earlier this year. "Yes, Mum's still alive," young Isabella says. "Ring me in 10 years." ■

Question 1 (continued)

Marks

**Text one – The big tourist quiz**

- (a) (i) What point is the cartoonist trying to make in Text one about belonging? 1
- (ii) Explain how TWO features help to develop the meaning. 2

**Text two – Finding a Friend**

- (b) (i) What point is the poet making about the complex nature of belonging? 1
- (ii) Explain how the poet's techniques deliver this message. 2

**Text three – The Two of Us**

- (c) (i) Explain what Isabella Hayek gained most from her relationship with Isabella Longman. 1
- (ii) How does this article convince you of the sense of belonging between the two women? 2

**Texts one, two and three**

- (d) Which of these texts do you find the most effective in exploring concepts of belonging or not belonging? 6

Justify your answer by making reference to all three texts.

**End of Question 1**

**Section II**

**15 marks**

**Attempt Question 2**

**Allow about 40 minutes for this section**

Start a new page for this section.

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In your answer you will be assessed on how well you:

- express understanding of belonging in the context of your studies
  - organise, develop and express ideas using language appropriate to audience, purpose and context
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**Question 2 (15 marks)**

Imagine you are a grandparent reflecting upon a time in your life when you felt either a sense of belonging or not belonging.

**End of paper**