



Hurlstone Agricultural High School

Trial Higher School Certificate 2009 English

Advanced and Standard Paper 1 - Area of Study

General Instructions

- Reading time -10 minutes
- Working time - 2 hours
- Write using blue or black pen

Section I

Total marks (15)

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

Section II

Total marks (15)

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

Section III

Total marks (15)

- Attempt Question 3
 - Allow about 40 minutes for this section
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Section I - Reading task

Total marks (15)

Attempt Question 1

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

Answer the questions in a writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

In your answers 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, three** and **four** carefully and then answer the questions on page 8.

Question 1 (continued)

Text One- Photograph

Photograph of Pat Mills, Olympic Basketball Player





Instilling a sense of belonging in others can do wonders for everyone concerned.



DO YOU GIVE MUCH THOUGHT TO WHETHER you are an "includer" by nature – or not? This is something that we can easily fail to develop in ourselves and may not value or develop in our children. Yet the capacity and willingness to think about others and include them makes a profound difference for people of all ages. It could be a child at pre-school who is willing to share, an adult at a party who keeps an eye out for anyone standing on their own, a colleague who will take the time to show a newcomer around a workplace, or someone happy to draw others out and help them feel affirmed and welcome. In so many situations a moment of generosity and thoughtfulness can make all the difference between someone feeling like an outsider, with all the agonies that can produce, and feeling included.

The image of a child standing alone in a crowded playground, without the protection

of company and friends, haunts many adults. Feeling included is vital for our emotional health and wellbeing and it will affect dramatically how we think about other people as well as ourselves. It will also affect whether we see the world as essentially friendly or hostile. Because most of us underestimate our own personal power and overestimate other people's, we are likely to spend far more time worrying about being left out rather than whether and how we are including others. Yet this is always a complex dance. We have chances to be included; we have

"A moment of generosity and thoughtfulness can make all the difference between someone feeling like an outsider ... and feeling included."

at least as many chances to offer that vital sense of inclusion to others.

Behaving in ways that are welcoming and inclusive lifts our own spirits – at any age. In fact, being actively inclusive and friendly does wonders for most people's personal and social confidence. Nevertheless, there will always be some people who remain fearful that reaching out to others will make them seem needy or vulnerable.

Even more disastrously, some of the most common and hurtful power plays between people depend on various forms of shunning that give a select group of people a sense of belonging at the expense of others. This happens so commonly we may think it is inevitable, but these are socially learned behaviours that can only flourish when they are condoned. They depend on an intrinsically self-centred view of the world and a grave misunderstanding of what personal power really means. What's more, no one really feels good about being included.

when the basis for this is excluding others. On the contrary, as any schoolgirl could affirm, whenever exile hovers, there will always be an undertow of fear that makes such conditional belonging a dark and uncomfortable experience.

It's tempting to believe that other people have an easier time feeling part of things than we do. Yet being real about our own insecurities should help us see how common they are and what we could do about them. In fact, honesty about our own social vulnerability creates a good basis for empathy and can give us the courage to be

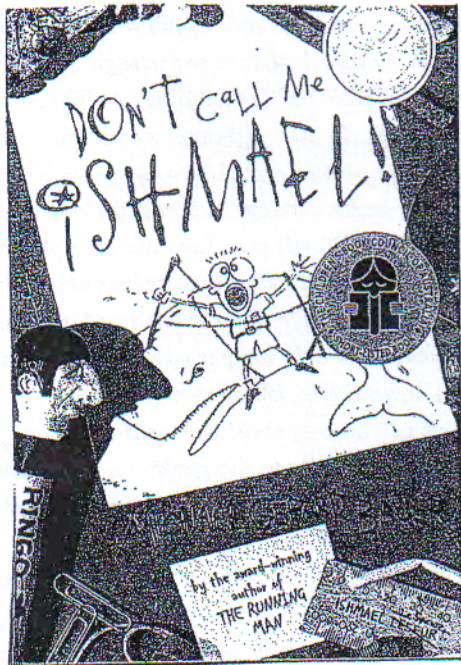
proactive rather than daunted. Acknowledging your power to bring other people in rather than leave them out already makes a difference.

I am amazed at how many people complain about feeling left out or overlooked while never considering how they might save others from similar experiences. Including others is a win-win situation: great for them, great for ourselves. Some people are naturally attuned to others, always keeping an eye out for those on the margins or those feeling new or unsure in any social situation. They are society's treasures and we can all learn from them.

An easy sense of belonging is essential to feeling safe, inwardly and outwardly. Whatever our age or status, we are free to appreciate that sense of belonging and to offer it freely to others. It is an exceptionally uplifting way to move through the world. **GW**

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Text 3 – Extract from a novel



There's no easy way to put this, so I'll just say it straight out. It's time I faced up to the truth. I'm fourteen years old and I have Ishmael Leseur's Syndrome.

There is no cure.

Now, as far as I know, I'm the only recorded case of Ishmael Leseur's Syndrome in the world. In fact, the medical profession has probably never even heard of Ishmael Leseur's Syndrome. But it's real, believe me. The problem is, though, who *would* believe me?

For a while there I guess I was in denial, but this year the symptoms have been just too painful and horrifying to ignore. And I'm not exaggerating here. No way. I'm telling you, Ishmael Leseur's Syndrome is capable of turning an otherwise almost normal person into a walking disaster registering nine point nine on the open-ended imbecile scale.

That's why I have decided to write all this down. Now everyone will finally understand the truth, and instead of electing me the Mayor of Loserville, they'll simply shake their heads, smile kindly and say, 'It's all right. We understand. The poor boy has Ishmael Leseur's Syndrome. It's not his fault.'

Anyway, maybe I'm getting ahead of myself here. I should really start at the beginning and go through things thoroughly—after all, I guess this needs to be approached scientifically if I'm to convince you that what I claim is true.

So, first things first. My name is Ishmael Leseur.

Now wait on, I know what you're going to say—I have the same name as my condition! You probably think I just invented it so I can use it as an excuse whenever I make a complete fool of myself. But you don't get it. It's not that simple. You have to understand that the name *is* the condition—or at least part of it. I'm not absolutely sure on the precise details of how it works. After all, I am not a scientist, I'm just the victim here, but I do have my theories, and this is one of them.

THEORY ONE: Ishmael Leseur's Syndrome is triggered by the release of a deadly virus that results from the combination of the words 'Ishmael' and 'Leseur'.

Now, I have thought about this a lot, so let me explain some of my conclusions. As I see it, the individual letters by themselves are harmless. The combination of letters forming the separate words 'Ishmael' and 'Leseur' also seem relatively harmless. To illustrate this I refer to the other members of my immediate family: namely, my father Ron Leseur, insurance salesman and co-founder of the 1980s rock group the

Dugongs, my mother Carol Leseur, local councillor and chief family organiser, and my thirteen-year-old sister Prue Leseur.

Now, as you can see, each of the above carries the name Leseur, yet I assure you that none of them suffers from any of the horrible symptoms that you are about to hear described. In fact, I'd have to say that most of the time my mother and father seem painfully happy and content and, to rub it in, my sister Prue, according to every friend, relative and stranger who has ever set eyes on her, is 'adorable'. She also has an IQ somewhere near genius level. In fact, if brains were cars, Prue would be a Rolls Royce while I would be a Goggomobil up on blocks with half its engine missing. And how do you think that makes me feel? Well, I'll tell you. Like the only person ever rejected for the job of village idiot because he was *waaaaay* over-qualified. Or, as Prue so thoughtfully explained it to me one day, 'Human beings use only ten per cent of their brain, which would seem, in your case, Ishy, nowhere near enough.'

So there you have it. The only conclusion you can possibly draw from my family's immunity to the syndrome is that it is triggered only by the fatal combination of the words 'Ishmael' and 'Leseur'.

The way I see it is, the linking of these particular sounds must result in some kind of chemical reaction that germinates a virus, which then mutates the cells of the body, causing an increase in deadly toxins. These deadly toxins then infect the brain and nervous system, which results in the sufferer saying and doing things that would embarrass even a complete moron. I haven't quite been able to prove this theory yet: science is not my best subject. I'm much better at English, actually, but who wouldn't be with Miss Tarango as your teacher? But that's another story, and as Miss often reminds me, I have to watch my 'structuring' when I write. Apparently I have a tendency to wander off the point.

Anyway, the point is, I didn't end up with Ishmael Leseur's Syndrome because of any chance combining of those two words. Oh no. I am who I am because of a deliberate act. You see, I know the circumstances surrounding the creation of my name in excruciating detail, and I know exactly who is responsible.

I will record their names now in this journal for all to see.

The ones who burdened me with the curse of Ishmael Leseur's were my parents. That's right, the aforementioned (this is an excellent word in a serious document such as this—Miss Tarango would approve) Ron and Carol Leseur. You can't blame them, of course. Parents are supposed to name their children. What happened wasn't their fault. They had no idea what a terrible thing they were doing.

Perhaps, though, I would find it a little easier to accept if they hadn't been laughing hysterically at the time they did it.

Text 4 – Quote

The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high for the privilege of owning yourself.

Friedrich Nietzsche

isolation is the sum total of wretchedness for a man

Thomas Carlyle

Question 1 {continued}

In your answers 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

Marks

Text one - Photograph

- (a) How does the photograph suggest that perceptions of belonging are shaped within personal and cultural contexts? **2.**

Text two - Newspaper Article Welcome, Stranger

- (b) State one of the ideas about belonging conveyed by the title of this article. **1.**
- (c) Explain the conclusions reached by the author about belonging. **2.**

Text three- Extract from novel

- (d) How has Ishmael used language techniques to vividly capture his perspective of belonging? **4.**

Text four- Quote

- (e) Compare text four with TWO of the other texts in terms of how they add to our understanding of the concept of belonging. **6.**

End of Question 1

Section II -Writing task

Total marks (15)

Attempt Question 2

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

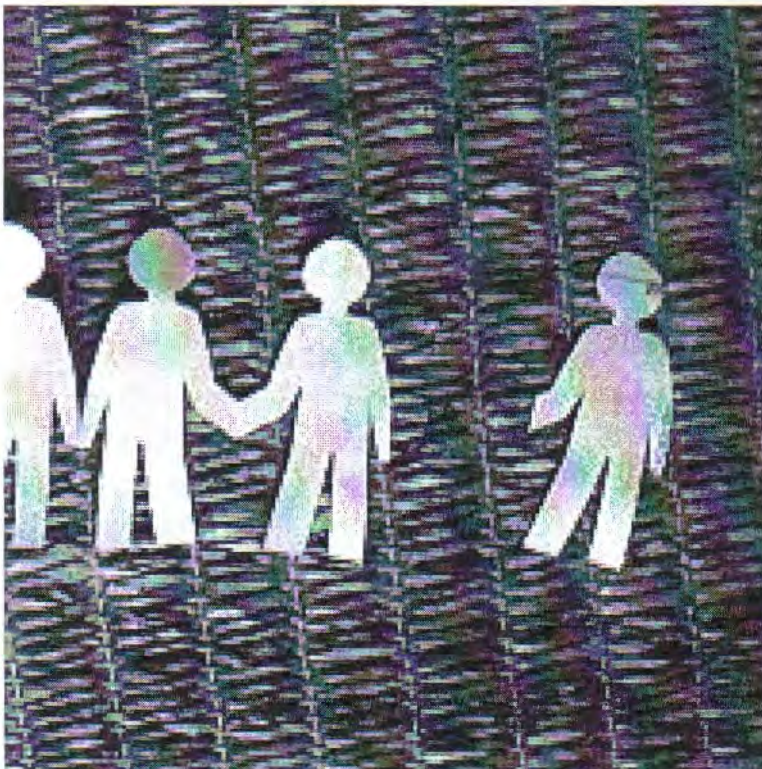
Answer the question in a writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available. In

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)

Incorporate the visual image below as a significant moment in a piece of imaginative writing about belonging.



Section III

Total marks (15)

Attempt Question 3

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

Answer the question in a writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

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

- demonstrate understanding of the concept of belonging in the context of your study
 - analyse, explain and assess the ways belonging is represented in a variety of texts
 - organise, develop and express ideas using language appropriate to audience, purpose and context
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Question 3 (15 marks)

Focus - Belonging

"Belonging doesn't just mean a sense of place; it's being at home within yourself and knowing who you are."

Is this your understanding of belonging?

In your answer you should refer to your prescribed text, and TWO other related texts of your own choosing.

The prescribed texts are:

- Drama - William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*
- Film - Baz Luhrmann, *Strictly Ballroom*

End of paper