

St George Girls High School

2011

TRIAL HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION

English (Standard) and English (Advanced) Paper 1 — Area of Study

General Instructions

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

Total marks – 45

Section I	Pages 2-6
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15 marks

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

Section II	Page 7
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15 marks

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

Section III	Page 8-9
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15 marks

- Attempt Question 3
- Allow about 40 minutes for this section

Section I
15 marks
Attempt Question 1
Allow about 40minutes for this section

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, three and four** carefully and answer the questions on page 6.

Text one – Photograph



Question 1 (continued)

Text two – Fiction extract from Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Unaccustomed Earth*

After her mother's death, Ruma's father retired from the pharmaceutical company where he had worked for many decades and began travelling in Europe, a continent he'd never seen. In the past year he had visited France, Holland, and most recently Italy. They were package tours, travelling in the company of strangers, riding by bus through the countryside, each meal and museum and hotel prearranged. He was gone for two, three, sometimes four weeks at a time. When he was away Ruma did not hear from him. Each time, she kept the printout of his flight information behind a magnet on the door of the refrigerator, and on the days he was scheduled to fly she watched the news, to make sure there hadn't been a plane crash anywhere in the world.

Occasionally a postcard would arrive in Seattle, where Ruma and Adam and their son Akash lived. The postcards showed the facades of churches, stone fountains, crowded piazzas, terra-cotta rooftops mellowed by late afternoon sun. Nearly fifteen years had passed since Ruma's only European adventure, a month-long EuroRail holiday she'd taken with two girlfriends after college, with money saved up from her salary as a paralegal. She'd slept in shabby hostels, practising a frugality that was foreign to her at this stage of her life, buying nothing but variations of the same postcards her father sent now. Her father wrote succinct, impersonal accounts of the things he had seen and done: "Yesterday the Uffizi Gallery. Today a walk to the other side of the Arno. A trip to Siena scheduled tomorrow." Occasionally there was a sentence about the weather. But there was never a sense of her father's presence in those places. Ruma was reminded of the telegrams her parents used to send to their relatives long ago, after visiting Calcutta and safely arriving back in Pennsylvania.

The postcards were the first pieces of mail Ruma had received from her father. In her thirty-eight years he'd never had any reason to write to her. It was a one-sided correspondence; his trips were brief enough so that there was no time for Ruma to write back, and besides, he was not in a position to receive mail on his end. Her father's penmanship was small, precise, slightly feminine; her mother's had been a jumble of capital and lowercase, as though she'd learned to make only one version of each letter. The cards were addressed to Ruma; her father never included Adam's name, or mentioned Akash. It was only in his closing that he acknowledged any personal connection between them. "Be happy, love Baba," he signed them, as if the attainment of happiness were as simple as that.

Question 1 (continued)

Text three – Blog Extract

Gran's 90th - by Doug (June 5, 2011)

Yesterday we had a huge family gathering in Goshen* for Gran's 90th birthday. Before I get into the details, I think I have to go ahead and mention the elephant in the room, at least for me. A 90th birthday celebration has a certain bitter-sweet tinge to it. Inevitably, it makes you wonder how long you have with the celebrant. Gran is still mentally sharp, but you can tell her body is giving her some aggravation.

Fortunately, she has a lot of family around her, and she is one of those people that are pretty universally beloved. She has always – at least for the 35 years I've known her – had a very calm, pleasant way about her. If she ever had some unevenness about her, I suspect the sheer scope of her family would have levelled it off. She has 5 boys, and a good deal of raising the older ones, at least, took place while her husband was fighting World War II. Those 5 boys have morphed into a mess of grandkids and something like 25 great-grandkids to date. (I'm not one to keep good track; occasionally someone will ask who this or that roaming child belongs to, and I just shrug my shoulders helplessly.) The range of humanity involved runs the spectrum from prominent members of the community to out-and-out criminals. Gran loves them all, and they love her back.

Of the 5 boys, two still live in Goshen, within blocks of Gran, as do some of the grandchildren. This has created a support network that most of us won't be so lucky to have. Having family nearby in your old age who actually like you seems to be a rare thing in this day and age.

So, for her 90th, I think we had something like 54 members of the family show up. It's amazing to see that the family has grown so large. She is my step-dad's mother, so I met her and the family when I was 5. There was, apparently, some family drama involved, which seems inevitable when trying to organise that many people and different personalities. But, generally speaking, things run smoothly and people get along remarkably well. There are a handful of family members who do most of the organising and preparing who probably deserve most of the credit for that. And, ultimately, it's probably a testament to how Gran has always acted that the family gets along as well as it does – particularly given the strong, competitive personality type that really typifies us.

My side of the family is really pretty scattered. Two brothers live in Indiana, one in Danville, a sister lives in Colorado, another in Cleveland, and my parents live in North Carolina. And everyone is busy with work and their own families. It really is a treat to get to see them all together every once in a while. Hopefully we'll get to do it again on plenty of occasions, including Gran's 95th and her 100th.

* A city of 30,000 people in the state of Indiana, USA

Question 1 (continued)

Text 4 - Poem

Lineage

A dull song floats
over the table,
I sit with my family's women,
black scarf tight around my head.

In groups they tell stories
solitary as a wail,
serving the rules by the spoonful
I watch them sink to the bottom of coffee cups.

The cake I press into my mouth
silences me, turning my stomach heavy as
the dough they knead in the morning and
leave to rise in a stifling corner of the kitchen.

Through the window
past the village
carriages weave out of the valley,
my women sit and watch unmoved,
knitting an existence that rests
like a numb still life
on a wall
faded by worry.

The damp rises slowly
pressing time forward.
They read cups,
their future told in coffee dregs,
every grain soaked in regret.

In the dark
a line of illuminated windows threads
through the trees below,
dropping my scarf, I go and
wait for the next train out.

Rosanna Licari

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 (continued)

Marks

Text 1 – Image

- (a) Describe TWO ideas about belonging or not belonging that are conveyed in this image. 2

Text 2 – Fiction extract

- (b) “The postcards were the first pieces of mail Ruma had received from her father.”

Explain the speaker’s relationship with her father. 2

Text 3 – Blog Extract

- (c) How does this text convey ideas about family as a source of belonging? 3

Text 4 – Poem

- (d) Why does the speaker decide to leave?

Identify and explain the impact of ONE technique used by the poet to convey her reasons for making this decision. 3

Texts 1, 2, 3 and 4 – Image, Fiction extract, Blog extract and Poem

- (e) Evaluate how at least TWO texts from texts one, two, three or four explore the concept of belonging. 5

Section II

15 marks

Attempt Question 2

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

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)

Use ONE of the quotations below as a stimulus to write an imaginative piece that will be included in a short story collection titled *Not/Belonging*. You MUST indicate, at the beginning of your piece, which quotation you have used.

Quote A: 'It really is a treat to get to see them all together every once in a while'

OR

Quote B: 'It was only in closing that he acknowledged any personal connection'

OR

Quote C: 'I go and wait for the next train out'

Section III

15 marks

Attempt Question 3

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

Answer the question in a SEPARATE 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)

‘In order to know who you really are, you must experience a genuine sense of belonging.’

Discuss how the importance of individual actions in creating a sense of belonging or not belonging is represented in the texts you have studied.

In your response you must refer to your prescribed text and TWO texts of your own choosing.

The prescribed texts are listed on the next page:

The prescribed texts are:

- **Prose Fiction**
 - Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
 - Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Namesake*
 - Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*
 - Ruth Praver Jhabvala, *Heat and Dust*
 - Tara June Winch, *Swallow the Air*

- **Nonfiction**
 - Raimond Gaita, *Romulus, My Father*

- **Drama**
 - Arthur Miller, *The Crucible: A Play in Four Acts*
 - Jane Harrison, *Rainbow's End*
from Vivienne Cleven et al. (eds), *Contemporary Indigenous Plays*

- **Film**
 - Baz Luhrmann, *Strictly Ballroom*
 - Rolf De Heer, *Ten Canoes*

- **Shakespeare**
 - William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*

- **Poetry**
 - Peter Skrzynecki, *Immigrant Chronicle*
 - ❖ St Patrick's College
 - ❖ Ancestors
 - ❖ 10 Mary Street
 - ❖ Migrant Hostel
 - ❖ Post card
 - ❖ In the Folk Museum
 - ❖ Feliks Skrzynecki

End of paper