



VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH

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**ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE
(EAL)**

Aural and written examination sample paper

Reading time: 15 minutes

Writing time: 3 hours

TASK BOOK

Instructions

A question and answer book is provided with this task book.
Refer to instructions on the front cover of the question and answer book.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

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SECTION B — Analytical interpretation of a text

After Darkness by Christine Piper

- i. ‘Johnny Chang is as much the novel’s hero as Tomokazu Ibaraki.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘*After Darkness* portrays courageous individuals fighting the misuse of authority and power.’
To what extent do you agree?

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo

- i. ‘*Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* reveals that poverty has consequences beyond physical damage.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘*Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* shows that when people are oppressed, they blame each other rather than their oppressors.’
Discuss.

Black Diggers by Tom Wright

- i. ‘The purpose of *Black Diggers* is to incorporate the stories of Indigenous soldiers into Australian history.’
Do you agree?

OR

- ii. ‘Discrimination limits the opportunities of individuals in *Black Diggers*.’
Discuss.

Bombshells by Joanna Murray-Smith

- i. “Selfish, stupid, disorganised mother.”
‘Murray-Smith’s play *Bombshells* suggests that society creates unreasonable expectations for women.’
Do you agree?

OR

- ii. ‘The central message of *Bombshells* is the importance of being able to adapt when situations change.’
Discuss.

***Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent**

- i. ‘There is more than one victim in *Burial Rites*.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘Agnes’ final months in Kornsá bring more happiness than sorrow.’
Do you agree?

***Extinction* by Hannie Rayson**

- i. ‘People rarely agree about what is the right thing to do.’
Discuss with reference to the play *Extinction*.

OR

- ii. How does *Extinction* explore the conflict between upholding ideals and the need to compromise?

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

- i. ‘*Frankenstein* shows that a sense of belonging is mankind’s greatest need.’
Do you agree?

OR

- ii. “Destiny was too potent, and her immutable laws had decreed my utter and terrible destruction.”
‘Frankenstein blames destiny, but the characters are responsible for their own misery.’
Do you agree?

***I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*
by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb**

- i. ‘*I Am Malala*’s central message is that unless traditional views are challenged, women cannot hope to progress.’
Do you agree?

OR

- ii. ‘Malala is only able to survive traumatic events thanks to the support of others.’
Do you agree?

***I for Isobel* by Amy Witting**

- i. ‘The use of first person narration in *I for Isobel* reveals how little Isobel understands about the world around her.’
Do you agree?

OR

- ii. ‘*I for Isobel* suggests that what we learn in early life has a greater impact than any later experience.’
Discuss.

***In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote**

- i. ‘The fates of the main characters in *In Cold Blood* are known from the outset.’
How does Capote build suspense despite this fact?

OR

- ii. “Of all the people in the world, the Clutters were the least likely to be murdered.”
‘The most disturbing aspect of *In Cold Blood* is the role played by chance.’
Discuss.

***Invictus* directed by Clint Eastwood**

- i. ‘*Invictus* shows that individuals can rise above loss.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘*Invictus* suggests that heroes have the potential to enact change.’
Do you agree?

***Island: Collected Stories* by Alistair MacLeod**

- i. ‘In *Island*, MacLeod presents a world that is simultaneously wild and alluring.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘The characters in *Island* are more influenced by their heritage than by where they live.’
Do you agree?

***Joyful Strains: Making Australia Home* edited by Kent MacCarter and Ali Lemer**

- i. ‘*Joyful Strains* shows families grappling with the problem of identity in a new culture.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘In *Joyful Strains*, change is inevitable for those who have left their homeland.’
Do you agree?

***Like a House on Fire* by Cate Kennedy**

- i. ‘The stories in *Like a House on Fire* demonstrate why clear communication is vital in relationships.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘When the characters in *Like a House on Fire* are faced with loss and misfortune, they choose acceptance rather than becoming angry or giving up hope.’
Discuss.

***Measure for Measure* by William Shakespeare**

- i. ‘Shakespeare’s play *Measure for Measure* is an exploration of leadership.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘Although the characters in Shakespeare’s play all suffer from human weakness, they also have redeeming characteristics.’
Discuss.

***Medea* by Euripides**

- i. ‘It is difficult for the audience to sympathise with Medea because her actions are so extreme.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

- ii. ‘Despite the shocking ending in Euripides’ play, the audience is not surprised.’
Discuss.

***Old/New World: New & Selected Poems* by Peter Skrzynecki**

- i. “...and a dog’s barking runs across the yard.”
How does Skrzynecki celebrate nature and landscape in his poems?

OR

- ii. “...that even seventy eternities / will never extinguish / whatever fire’s burning in him
// but gently permit to kindle.”
How does Skrzynecki pay tribute to people he admires in his poetry?

***Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi**

- i. “It wasn’t just the government that changed. Ordinary people changed too.”
‘Satrapi’s graphic memoir suggests that change in society can affect the lives of individuals.’
Do you agree?

OR

- ii. How is the conflict between tradition and modernity revealed through the characters in Satrapi’s *Persepolis*?

Rear Window directed by Alfred Hitchcock

- i. ‘*Rear Window* demonstrates that human relationships are never simple.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. In *Rear Window*, how does Hitchcock focus more on the ordinary than the extraordinary?

Selected Poems by John Donne

- i. ‘Despite the struggles of life, Donne still sees reason for joy.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘In his poetry, Donne challenges readers to think differently about the human experience.’
Discuss.

Stasiland by Anna Funder

- i. “When I got out of prison, I was basically no longer human.”
‘The Stasi regime has a brutal impact upon the human spirit.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘Anna Funder’s *Stasiland* suggests that language can be a powerful means of control.’
Do you agree?

Stories We Tell directed by Sarah Polley

- i. ‘*Stories We Tell* reveals that although our past always intrudes on our present, we can never recapture it.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. How does the documentary *Stories We Tell* suggest that life is simply about playing roles?

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

- i. ‘In *The Crucible*, Miller reveals how courage and faith can be tested.’
Discuss.

OR

- ii. ‘When faced with adversity, unexpected leaders can emerge.’
To what extent do the characters in *The Crucible* reveal this?

***The Golden Age* by Joan London**

- i. 'In *The Golden Age*, love triumphs over loneliness and isolation.'
Do you agree?

OR

- ii. "In recovery he felt a hunger to know why he was alive."
'*The Golden Age* is a novel about self-discovery.'
Discuss.

***The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula Le Guin**

- i. "Happiness has to do with reason, and only reason earns it."
'Le Guin's novel shows what is needed to achieve justice in society.'
Discuss.

OR

- ii. 'It is Genly Ai's desire to learn that enables him to rise above the complexities of his worlds.'
Do you agree?

***The Lieutenant* by Kate Grenville**

- i. 'Grenville shows that individuals who are different are able to view the world more clearly.'
Discuss.

OR

- ii. 'The characters in *The Lieutenant* fight against the brutal situations they experience.'
Do you agree?

***The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga**

- i. 'While Balram's concern is mainly for himself, he also has empathy for others.'
Discuss.

OR

- ii. 'In *The White Tiger*, Adiga suggests that it is impossible to live honourably.'
Do you agree?

***Tracks* by Robyn Davidson**

- i. 'In *Tracks*, Davidson's sole purpose is to resist conformity.'
Do you agree?

OR

- ii. 'Individuals must live in a way that reflects their values.'
Discuss how this idea is explored in *Tracks*.

END OF SECTION B

SECTION C — Argument and persuasive language

Background information

Away is a travel magazine, published monthly. In 2018, it is running a monthly feature called “Well Travelled!” where different people involved in the travel industry are invited to describe their best holiday at their best holiday location, including a photo that typifies their experience. Angela Stavrou wrote an article about Hong Kong for the April edition of *Away*, and Jack Nguyen wrote the article about holidaying in Victoria for the May edition.

Glossary

<i>to have the travel bug</i>	to have the desire to travel
<i>hustle and bustle</i>	movement and noise, usually in a city or marketplace
<i>to grab with both hands</i>	to seize an opportunity
<i>like a moth to a flame</i>	irresistibly and dangerously attracted to something or someone
<i>veranda</i>	a roofed platform along the outside of a house, level with the ground floor

Well Travelled!



HONG KONG, CHINA

Angela Stavrou, Communications Officer at Endless Sky Hotels, travels to exotic Hong Kong.

Like most people, I don't travel overseas as much as I'd like, but my husband and I have the travel bug and we do it as often as we can.

I wasn't thinking about Hong Kong at all, but after my friends made a recommendation at a dinner party, I booked the flights the next day. I can't remember exactly what they said about Hong Kong, but I am glad they told me about it. I hope I can do the same for you because your life will be richer for it.

***'Hong Kong is
a whole other world,
bustling and beautiful.'***

So, why is Hong Kong a must-see location?

It could be the shopping. Some of you will know Hong Kong as a shopping mecca, and many people take a yearly holiday there; the designer brands are a big attraction. For me, it is the hustle and bustle of the local markets. The Mong Kok and Temple Street Night Markets in Kowloon are my favourites – such an authentic local experience. I love the elbow to elbow jostle. Street hawkers working in the markets, happy to try and speak English and laugh when it doesn't quite work. You can buy anything: jade, jewellery, gold. Tailored suits. Traditional Chinese crafts. Food of every conceivable nature; mouth-watering smells waft through the crowd. And when it all gets a bit much, sit back and relax to the sounds of a local Chinese opera.

Or it could be the history. The Man Mo Taoist temple is the island's oldest. You walk inside and back in time. I learnt a lot about Buddhism at the Wong Tai Sin temple. It was truly serene with the sound of prayer and clouds of incense floating through the timeless gardens.



Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong, from Victoria Peak

Or it could be Victoria Peak with its breathtaking views. Watching the sun set was surreal. At twilight, the harbour sparkled like an emerald.

However, the greatest highlight was the night cruise on Victoria harbour. I have been to New York on the 4th of July and seen the fireworks on the Sydney Harbour Bridge but this beats it all. The buildings themselves were a kaleidoscope of light and colour. I took plenty of photos but none captured the magnificence of the sight, or the awe I felt.

Hong Kong is a whole other world, bustling and beautiful. If you have the slightest interest in going overseas, grab it with both hands and head to Hong Kong.

Well Travelled!



VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

This month, Jack Nguyen, from Tourism Victoria, takes us around Victoria.



Mt Baw Baw Summit Walk

I have spent years overseas. I have sailed in the Greek isles, climbed the pyramids and floated down the Nile. I have seen the top ten attractions around the world! Now, my favourite place to holiday is at home – in Victoria. Although parts of the world are spectacular, it doesn't compare to what we have right here in Australia.

When I was overseas, people often asked me what it was like back home. I would list all the places to go and see, but they were places I had never gone to, or seen. It was kind of embarrassing. It felt a little unpatriotic, despite the Australian flag sewn onto my backpack. Once back in Australia, I was determined to find out where I lived. I have come to realise that you don't have to go far to have a meaningful and valuable travel experience. Victoria has it all, and I can't get enough of it.

Victorians are mostly an urban people, drawn to the lights of cities and towns like a moth to a flame. Yet when we step outside our closed-in environment, gradually the stress fades and calm descends. Just on the other side of the limits of our urban existence, a whole new world awaits. Forget the trip to the airport, the cost of parking, organising the passports and visas, the endless hours on a cramped plane – not to mention the cost!

I love to travel on the numerous gourmet trails that stretch across our great state. Why travel to France for wine and cheese, when what we have here is better? I don't know how many times I have sat on a veranda, soaking up the atmosphere and wondering how it could possibly get any better – and it's only a day trip.

My favourite thing to do is visit Victoria's national parks, which are a short trip from anywhere – coastal parks with the world's most pristine beaches, our great rivers and lake systems, ancient rainforests, mountainous bushland, and Alpine landscapes. The ancient Australian landscape has been here for thousands of years. You can see it etched in rock formations and you can feel it when you sit on the top of a mountain. Our land is like a sleeping giant that reminds you of how small we are and how big the world is.



The Twelve Apostles, Port Campbell National Park

And at night, away from city lights, you can see the real night sky full of stars. They pulsate; they glow and give out light and colour – blues, oranges, reds. You can spend hours sitting on the edge of the universe, looking into the endless sky to the depths of forever. It's like nature's greatest fireworks display.

It sure beats the 7 o'clock news and a Netflix movie before bed.

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END OF TASK BOOK



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