

2010 HSC Italian Extension Sample Answers — Written Examination

This document contains ‘sample answers’, or, in the case of some questions, ‘answers could include’. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

- (a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills, and
- (b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’, they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Section I — Response to Prescribed Text Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

It was the music played the night Guido tried to attract Dora’s attention at the Opera. It represents happier times but also lets her know that he is alive. This would give Dora some hope for their future.

Question 1 (b)***Sample answer:***

Guido dreams of what life would be if he were not living in his present reality. Therefore he remembers happy times such as waking up in the comfort of their home and being close to his wife. His dream shields both him and Giosuè from the horror of their current situation.

Question 1 (c)***Sample answer:***

At the beginning of the film the fog is used as a frame for the flashback while Giosuè introduces his story to the audience. In Scene A the fog symbolises the distance between Guido and Dora and acts as a barrier to their love. The music unites them however, despite the fog.

At the beginning of Scene B the fog acts as a protective shield for father and son from the possible consequences of being seen. As Guido begins to walk with Giosuè, the fog creates a shield from the reality of camp life. This allows Guido to retreat in a daze-like dreamstate which facilitates his return to his previous happy life. When he turns the corner the fog no longer shields the reality and Guido is completely overwhelmed by what he sees. His stepping back into the fog once again shows the fog as a protective element.

Question 1 (d)***Sample answer:***

Rising above adverse circumstances is the main focus of the film.

Examples:

In these two scenes Guido rises above the adverse circumstances in his life by escaping his present reality through dream, establishing a connection with his memories and through music. He devotes his life to ensuring the wellbeing of his son. In other scenes he uses his wit, his imagination, his ability to fantasise and produce stories and games in order to lighten the atmosphere for himself and his family. He also constantly maintains a positive attitude to life and this is seen to affect the life of others around him, as well as his own.

Dora: her decision to join her husband and son on the train shows that her way of coping is to make the ultimate sacrifice. Lacking respect for her mother's and Rodolfo's social conventions and what they represent, she chooses a completely different life for herself, by running away with Guido.

Captain Lessing: uses riddles as a means of escape and to detach himself from his unpleasant reality and his responsibilities as a human being.

Zio Eliseo: rises above by retreating into a world of gentility, poetry and historically significant objects.