



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2011 English (Standard) and English (Advanced) HSC Examination Paper 1 'Sample Answers'

When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write 'sample answers' or, in the case of some questions, 'answers could include'. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice contained in this document 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

Question 1 (a)

Answers could include:

The visual text:

- presents a collage of images that can be interpreted as universal symbols of belonging
- offers a variety of perspectives on belonging to places, people and the world, suggesting that there are many ways of belonging
- integrates images and words, with each reflecting and enriching the other
- provides a literal and surface-level representation of belonging to places, landscapes and groups
- offers a metaphorical interpretation of belonging through the mind, memory and imagination
- can be interpreted as a symbolic representation of the many ways in which individuals can experience belonging and not belonging
- presents stylised images that convey the universality of experiences of belonging
- assembles words, images and colour as representations of a myriad of ways of belonging, and these are ultimately unified by the structure and layout of the text
- has at the centre of the 'grid' (or checkerboard, etc) the word 'people', suggesting that experiences of belonging can coalesce within the individual
- through its layout, can be interpreted as a board game, with the implication that experiences of belonging and not belonging can be influenced by chance

Question 1 (b)

Answers could include:

Personal insights into belonging to places are conveyed in the transcript through:

- the use of first-person narrative, with each of the four speakers presenting their reflections on their personal experiences of place, landscape, family and belonging
- the personal tone and the sharing of personal memories of experience
- an exchange of perspectives, ideas and personal experiences
- the informal, reflective tone and language of the dialogue, which captures the personal meaning and significance of places to each speaker's sense of belonging and not belonging

Question 1 (c)

Answers could include:

Jack comes to understand:

- that new places do not always offer a sense of belonging
- that belonging to places depends on the depth and quality of the experiences shared with significant people
- through reflecting on his experiences of new and remembered places, that memory can provide personal insights into the meaning of people and places in his own life
- that the external landscape of a place becomes meaningful when the experiences of that place are internalised and reflected over

- that the internal landscape of memory is as meaningful as the physical landscape of a place in generating a sense of belonging
- that being remote from 'home' generates new insights into the significance of places, family and his relationship with his father
- that his relationship with his father has been a constant over time, and has transcended the geographical places he has encountered
- that reflecting on the experience of home and travel and drawing together memories of the past enables him to evaluate experience and find meaning
- that a deeper insight into his life can be apprehended through consideration of new places
- that there is an irony in that travelling to new places can trigger reflections on what it means to belong and not belong, reinforcing the significance of family and home

Question 1 (d)

Answers could include:

- Memories are both comforting and a source of grief as Eilis seeks to adapt to her new environment
- It is through the memory of her home/familiar places/family that Eilis maintains a sense of belonging, but this sense of belonging, through memory, serves to accentuate the emptiness of her new life in Brooklyn
- Eilis's memories of her life in Ireland powerfully demonstrate that her sense of belonging was internalised through her connection to the places (rooms of the home), people and familiar routines
- There is a stark contrast between the remembered sense of belonging and the actual sense of disconnection and alienation in Brooklyn
- Memories enable Eilis to maintain her connection to the past sense of belonging, but paradoxically also serve to sharply reinforce her present loneliness and disconnection from the people and landscape of Brooklyn
- The contrast between past and present, belonging and not belonging, familiarity and uncertainty is brought to the fore through Eilis's meditation on memories

Question 1 (e)

Answers could include:

- Each of the four texts presents perspectives on the experience of belonging and not belonging to places
- Each text invites us to consider the significance of belonging to places as both a personal and a universal experience
- Each text represents the experience of belonging to places in distinctive ways: visually, through dialogue, through first-person narrative reflection, and through the third-person perspective of a character's interior experiences
- Each text can be considered on a literal level and also in terms of its treatment of archetypal and/or metaphorical dimensions of identity and belonging to places
- The texts provide insights into the ways in which a sense of belonging and not belonging to places can shape an individual's identity