



BOARD OF STUDIES  
NEW SOUTH WALES

**2012**

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATION

# English (ESL)

## Paper 1 — Language Study within an Area of Study

### General Instructions

- Reading time – 10 minutes
- Working time – 1½ hours
- Write using black or blue pen  
Black pen is preferred

**Total marks – 45**

**Section I** Pages 2–5

**25 marks**

- Attempt Question 1
- Allow about 50 minutes for this section

**Section II** Pages 6–7

**20 marks**

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

## Section I

25 marks

Attempt Question 1

Allow about 50 minutes for this section

Examine **Texts one, two and three** carefully and then answer the questions in the Section I Question 1 Answer Booklet.

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

- demonstrate understanding of the ways language shapes and expresses perceptions
- 

### Text one — Magazine article

**Dinner**

**Sarah Rabia**

I have been putting off going out for dinner. Normally I'd jump at the chance to escape the communal kitchen where I live, but the idea of going out to dinner all by myself fills me with dread. I don't want to look like a friendless freak. What will I do during all that time? What will I look at (no books or mobile allowed)? I can't bear to be stared at. I know my reasons are petty but I can't be the only one. ...

My problem is I am severely self-conscious. I remember at school the torture of walking across the Year 11 common room by myself with the rest of the year watching me. I think that's when my hair-twiddling habit started, something to occupy me and make me feel less awkward.

I head to a family restaurant in Darlinghurst, Sydney, dressed casually, but not so I'll be mistaken for a wandering tramp. The waitress doesn't bat an eye when I ask for a table for one and invites me to sit anywhere. I panic slightly and then make a strategic beeline for the booth at one end of the restaurant, forcing myself to face the entrance. I order a drink, study the menu and take a peek around. No-one is watching me. There's a busy pub opposite, which makes me feel strangely peaceful sitting quietly by myself. ...

My food (Lamb Souvlaki) arrives quickly (maybe the kitchen feels sorry for loners?) and I do my first embarrassing thing. I can't open the tomato sauce sachet so I stick my knife in it and it squirts all over my hands and eyebrow. I clean myself up with the napkin and check to see if anyone has noticed. No-one has. ...

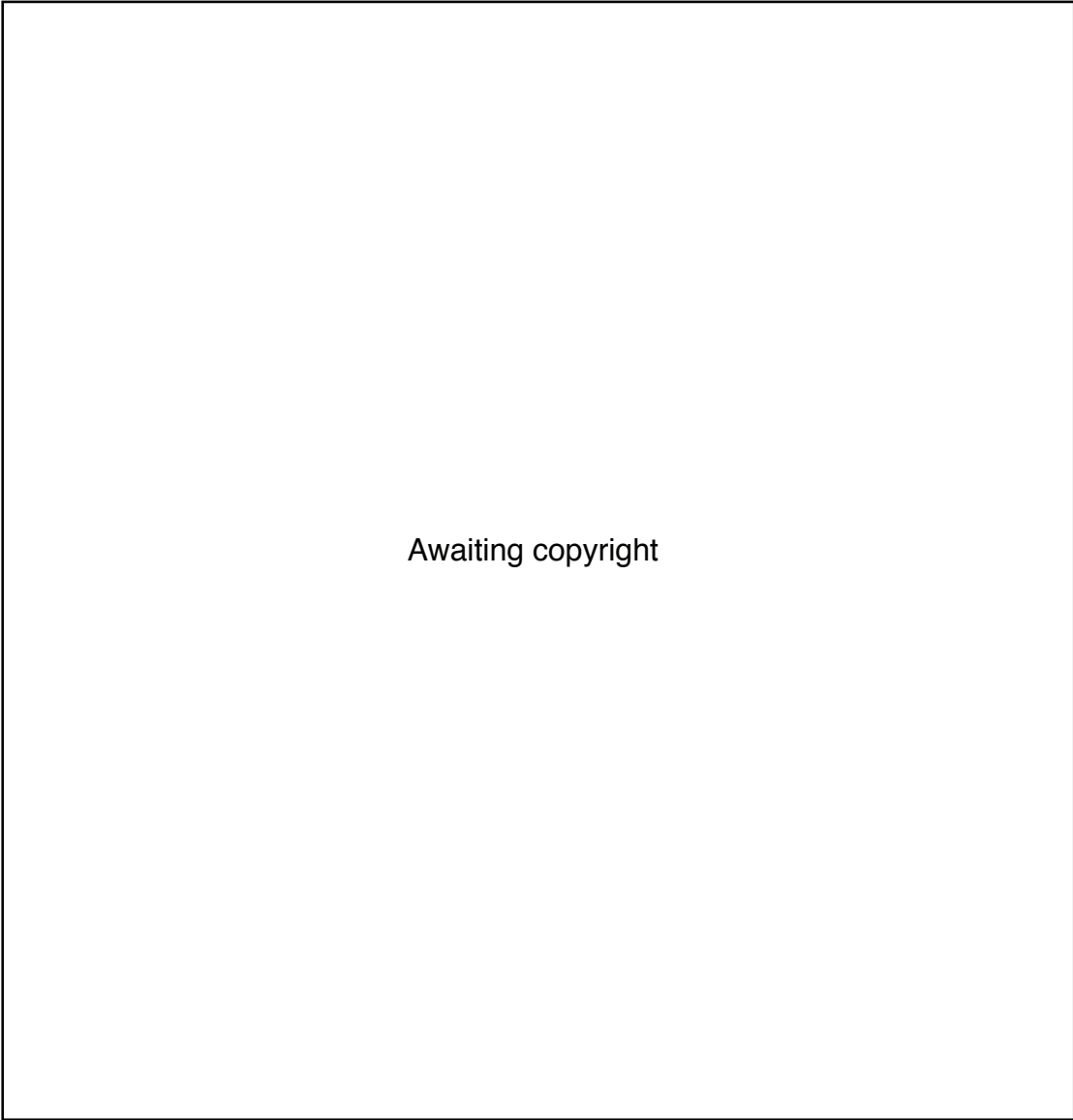
It's then I realise I am quite enjoying my own company and haven't even thought about reading the magazine I've sneakily brought along. I must look really self-possessed I suddenly think, not like one of those girls who has to go to the loo with a bunch of friends. I quite like this non-hair-twiddling me.

After I've finished and paid the bill ..., I take a walk and wander into a boutique. Then I remember something I actually prefer to do alone: shop.

Adapted from an article on the theme 'all by myself' published in frankie magazine, 2005

Acknowledgement: Courtesy of Sarah Rabia.

**Text two — Cartoon**



### **Text three — Extract from an autobiography**

Stan Grant is an Australian journalist, well known for his work on current affairs programs. The following is an extract from his autobiography, *The Tears of Strangers: A Memoir*.

My people believe in the power of dreams. In dreams we become whole; in dreams we become men. My father came to me in a dream, he came from half a world away and he came to tell me it was all right; whatever had happened and whatever would happen, it was all right.

In my dream Dad was walking toward me, flanked by two of his cousins, my uncles, and they were on the stairs of an old railway platform. There was no-one else around and I was in a time that belonged to neither day nor night. They seemed not to notice me. As they got closer I saw they wore no shoes. It seemed odd. Then, like spirits, they glided past me ...

I woke the next morning with my memory of the dream as clear as if they'd been in the room with me ... At that moment I was as far from Dad as I'd ever been. I was a correspondent in London, preparing news reports for broadcast by satellite back to Australia each night. But my father had no need of satellites; his technology was more ancient, yet he came to me as clearly as I'd ever appeared on screen.

For two thousand generations my father's people, the Wiradjuri, had believed in the power of our dreams. The old men, the Walamira, had a psychic gift that enabled them to thrust their minds into the future, into a spirit world where distance, time and space dissolved.

The Walamira were the keepers of our secrets. They had the power of flight and the power of illusion, and they possessed an impenetrable intellect. They could be identified by the light in their eyes and they spoke directly to Baiami – to God. Baiami would take young boys in their dreams and ask them if they'd been prepared by their fathers to receive the ancient power and knowledge. Then he would promise to make them men. My father had come to ask me if I was ready to become a man.

**Text three continues on page 5**

Text three (continued)

Am I ready to become a man? An Aboriginal man? To answer that question I've had to ask other, even more searching questions. Where do I belong? Who am I? The blood of my fathers links me to a much older place and time. I've walked in the footprints of my ancestors; I've sat by the river bank at night and imagined them around me. I am all that they have made me. Yet I stand apart from them now. I call myself an Aborigine. I know I am from them, but am I still truly of them? ...

... Success, or acceptance, has come at a cost to the certainty of my identity ... This dilemma will confront so many of my brothers and sisters as they too grapple with how to express themselves in a world imposed upon them, which is at the same time tempting, seductive. White Australia engulfs us; we fight for its concession, while it sets the limits of our existence and daily defines us.

... Yet I cherish my identity. Black I am; black I will ever be. As long as there are Grants – the living blood of old Wongamar – we will be Aborigines, Wiradjuri. A Chinese friend once told me that home is the last stop on your ancestors' journey; my ancestors' footsteps have travelled for a hundred thousand years across my land to bring me to this point. Where I end, so will my children begin. I hope that when they are older there is enough Aborigine still in me – in them – so that I too can come to my sons in their dreams and ask them, 'Are you ready to become men?'

Acknowledgment: © Stan Grant, Reproduced with permission from Harper Collins Publishers Australia.

**End of Text three**

**End of Question 1**

## Section II

20 marks

Attempt Question 2

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

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

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

- demonstrate understanding of the ways language shapes and expresses perceptions
  - organise, develop and express ideas using language appropriate to audience, purpose and context
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### Question 2 (20 marks)

‘A person’s identity is shaped by their sense of belonging and/or not belonging’.

To what extent is this idea conveyed in the texts you have studied? In your response refer to the language and ideas in your TWO prescribed texts and ONE text of your own choosing.

The prescribed texts are:

- **Prose Fiction** – Allan Baillie, *The China Coin*

or

- Ruth Praver Jhabvala, *Heat and Dust*

or

- Tara June Winch, *Swallow the Air*

- **Drama** – Willy Russell, *Educating Rita*

or

- Jane Harrison, *Rainbow’s End*  
from Vivienne Cleven et al. (eds) *Contemporary Indigenous Plays*

**Question 2 continues on page 7**

Question 2 (continued)

- **Poetry** – Peter Skrzynecki, *Immigrant Chronicle*

The prescribed poems are:

- \* *Immigrants at Central Station, 1951*
- \* *Feliks Skrzynecki*
- \* *St Patrick's College*
- \* *Ancestors*
- \* *10 Mary Street*
- \* *Post card*
- \* *In the folk museum*

**or**

- Emily Dickinson, *Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson*

The prescribed poems are:

- \* *66 This is my letter to the world*
- \* *67 I died for beauty, but was scarce*
- \* *82 I had been hungry all the years*
- \* *83 I gave myself to him*
- \* *127 A narrow fellow in the grass*
- \* *154 A word dropped careless on a page*
- \* *161 What mystery pervades a well!*
- \* *181 The saddest noise, the sweetest noise*

- **Nonfiction** – Alice Pung, *Unpolished Gem*

- **Film** – Phillip Noyce, *Rabbit-Proof Fence*

**or**

- Stephen Daldry, *Billy Elliot*

**Or**

- **Multimedia** – Multicultural Programs Unit, NSW Department of Education and Communities, *Making Multicultural Australia*, [www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au](http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au)

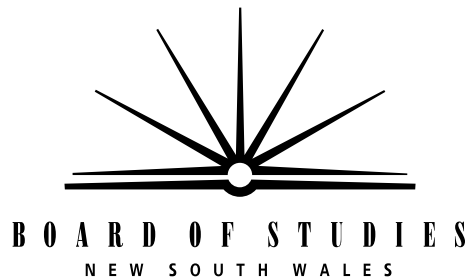
The prescribed sections are:

- \* History [www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/history/index.php](http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/history/index.php)
- \* Activities [www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/activities/index.php](http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/activities/index.php)
- \* Library [www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/library/index.php](http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/library/index.php)
- \* e-Learning [www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/learning/index.php](http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/learning/index.php)
- \* Hotwords [www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/hotwords/index.php](http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/hotwords/index.php)

**End of paper**

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Centre Number

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Student Number

**2012****HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATION**

# English (ESL)

## Paper 1 — Language Study

### within an Area of Study

### Section I Question 1 Answer Booklet

**Instructions**

- Answer Question 1 in this answer booklet
- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page

**Section I**

**25 marks**

**Attempt Question 1**

**Allow about 50 minutes for this section**

Read the texts on pages 2–5 of the question paper, then answer the corresponding questions in the spaces provided. These spaces provide guidance for the expected length of response.

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

- demonstrate understanding of the ways language shapes and expresses perceptions
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**Question 1 (25 marks)**

**Text one — Magazine article**

(a) Why did Sarah challenge herself to eat alone? **2**

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(b) How are Sarah’s feelings about belonging communicated to the reader? **3**

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**Question 1 continues on page 3**



