



BOARD OF STUDIES
NEW SOUTH WALES

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

2000

ENGLISH

2/3 UNIT (COMMON)

PAPER 1

RESOURCES AND USES OF ENGLISH
AND
SHAKESPEARE
(Othello)

*Time allowed—Two hours
(Plus 10 minutes reading time)*

DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Attempt ALL questions.
- Answer Questions 1 and 3 in SEPARATE Writing Booklets.
- You may ask for extra Writing Booklets if you need them.
- Answer Question 2 in the Question 2 Answer Booklet provided.

Section I

- **Question 1 Reading Task** (15 marks). Allow about 30 minutes for this question.
- **Question 2 Writing Task** (20 marks). Allow about 40 minutes for this question.

Section II

- **Question 3 Shakespeare, *Othello*** (25 marks). Allow about 50 minutes for this question.

SECTION I—RESOURCES AND USES OF ENGLISH**QUESTION 1 Reading Task (15 marks)**

Use a SEPARATE Writing Booklet. Allow about 30 minutes for this question.

Read the following passage.

Analyse the writer's use of language in portraying Francie's thoughts and feelings evoked by her last day of school.

It was the last day of the term and Francie's last day at school though she was only twelve, thirteen after Christmas. She could count up to thirty in French. She could make puff pastry, dabbing the butter carefully before each fold. She could cook sago, lemon or pink with cochineal, that swelled in cooking from dirty little grains, same, same, dusty and bagged in paper, to lemon or pink pearls. She knew a drop of iodine on a slice of banana will blacken the fruit, and prove starch; that water is H₂O; that a man called Shakespeare, in a wood near Athens, contrived a moonlit dream.

But in all her knowing, she had not learned of the time of living, the unseen always, when people are like the marbles in the fun alley at the show; and a gaudy circumstance will squeeze payment from their cringing and poverty-stricken fate, to give him the privilege of rolling them into the bright or dark box, till they drop into one of the little painted holes, their niche, it is called, and there roll their lives round and round in a frustrating circle.

And Francie was taken, on the afternoon of the play, like one of the marbles, though still in her silver helmet and breast-plate and waiting to be burned;* and rolled to a new place beyond participles and science and bunsen burners and Shakespeare.

To a new place of bright or dark, of home again, and Mum and Dad, an all day Mum and Dad; as if she was small again, not quite five, with no school, no school ever, and her world, like her tooth, under her pillow with a promise of sixpence and no school ever any more. No black stockings to buy and get on tick with panama hat and blouse and black shoes, with the salesman spearing the account sheets, in terrible, endless ritual, licking the end of the pencil that is chained by a worn gold chain to the counter, carefully writing the prices, totting the account in larger than ordinary figures so as to see and make quite sure, for the Withers are not going to pay yet. It is all on credit. With the deliberation of power then, the salesman plunges the sheet of paper through the metal spear that stands rooted in a small square of wood; then he moves the wood carefully aside, with the paper speared and torn but spouting no visible blood, and the total unharmed and large, afraid, at the committed debt. The Withers are under sentence. It is likely they will be put in prison. And the salesman smooths the sheet of account slips with the power of judgement and fate in the pressure of his hand.

QUESTION 1 (Continued)

—Will it be all right, till the end of the month?

—Certainly till the end of the month.

So for Francie now, no black stockings to find and darn or uniform to sponge or panama hat to be cleaned with whiting and water and the time saying, Will you walk a little faster? And the marks not coming off, and Francie crying because Miss Legget inspected the hats and pointed towards the ones not clean and floppy and said,

—A disgrace. Now quick march, girls, toes meet the floor first, quick march, but not Francie Withers.

Francie Withers is dirty. Francie Withers is poor. The Withers haven't a weekender nor do they live on the South Hill nor have they got a vacuum cleaner nor do they learn dancing or the piano nor have birthday parties nor their photos taken at the Dainty Studio to be put in the window on a Friday.

She hasn't a school blazer with a monogram.

But Francie Withers is Joan of Arc, and she sang at the garden party—

* Francie is dressed for the school play as Joan of Arc (soldier-saint, who was burned at the stake in 1431)

*Extract from *Owls Do Cry* by Janet Frame, *The Women's Press*, London, 1994, pp 20-21.*

Please turn over

QUESTION 2 Writing Task (20 marks)

Answer this question in the Question 2 Answer Booklet provided.

Allow about 40 minutes for this question.



Photo European Migrants Arriving, Sydney – 1966 © David Moore Photography Pty Ltd.

‘I found the photo at the bottom of the drawer. I hadn’t thought about that day for some years . . .’

Imagine that you are one of the people in this photograph. Write a journal entry in which you reflect on its significance for you.

Write at least 300 words.

SECTION II—SHAKESPEARE

QUESTION 3 *Othello* (25 marks)

Use a SEPARATE Writing Booklet. Allow about 50 minutes for this question.

‘*Othello* is a play that explores loyalty.’

Discuss.

End of paper