



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

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

2000

ENGLISH

2 UNIT GENERAL

PAPER 1

**USES OF ENGLISH AND
TOPIC AREAS**

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

DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Attempt ALL questions.

Section I	Reading Task	Question 1
Section II	Writing Task	Question 2
Section III	Topic Areas	Question 3
- All questions are of equal value.
- Allow about 40 minutes for each question.
- 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—READING TASK**QUESTION 1** (20 marks)

Use a SEPARATE Writing Booklet.

Allow about 40 minutes for this question.

Read the following TWO passages, then answer the questions on page 3.

PASSAGE A: THE DEAD SEAL NEAR McCLURES BEACH

Walking north toward the point, I find a dead seal. From a few feet away, he looks like a brown log. The body is on its back, dead only a few hours. I stand and look at him. A quiver in the dead flesh. My God he is still alive. A shock goes through me, as if a wall of my room had fallen away.

His head is arched back, the small eyes closed, the whiskers sometimes rise and fall. He is dying. This is the oil. Here on its back is the oil that heats our houses so efficiently. Wind blows fine sand back towards the ocean. The flipper near me lies folded over the stomach, looking like an unfinished arm, lightly glazed with sand at the edges. The other flipper lies half underneath. The seal's skin looks like an old overcoat, scratched here and there . . . by sharp mussels maybe . . .

I reach out and touch him. Suddenly he rears up, turns over. He gives three cries, like those from Christmas toys. He lunges toward me. I am terrified and leap back, although I know there can be no teeth in that jaw. He starts flopping towards the sea. But he falls over, on his face. He does not want to go back to the sea. He looks up at the sky, and he looks like an old lady who has lost her hair. He puts his chin back down on the sand, arranges his flippers, and waits for me to go . . .

Today I go back to say goodbye; he's dead now. But he's not — he's a quarter mile farther up the shore. Today he is thinner, squatting on his stomach, head out. The ribs show more — each vertebra on the back now visible, shiny. He breathes in and out.

He raises himself up, and tucks his flippers under, as if to keep them warm. A wave comes in and touches his nose. He turns and looks at me — the eyes slanted, the crown on his head like a leather jacket. He is taking a long time to die. The whiskers white as porcupine quills, the forehead slopes, goodbye brother, die in the sound of the waves, forgive us if we have killed you, long live your race, your inner-tube race, so uncomfortable on land, so comfortable in the sea. Be comfortable in death then, where the sand will be out of your nostrils, and you can swim in long loops through the pure death, ducking under as assassinations break above you. You don't want to be touched by me. I climb the cliff and go home the other way.

QUESTION 1 (Continued)

Marks

PASSAGE B: FUR SEAL

The fur seal was once known better to most people as a fur coat than as a marine mammal. Over the past 200 years or so many have been slaughtered by hunters, and the animals have been brought to the verge of extinction. One species lives in the northern hemisphere, and six species in the southern.

The fur seal belongs to the family Otariidae, or eared seals. That is, they have a small external ear, not found in the Phocidae or true seals. Other distinguishing features are the ability to turn the handflippers forward and walk with the body raised from the ground, as well as having the body covered with a dense fur quite unlike the coarse hairs of the phocid seals. The foreflippers are large and mobile. The handflippers have small nails used in grooming, the animal being able to reach its face and its neck with the hindflipper.

Adult seals vary considerably in colour depending on whether they are wet or dry; a wet female may look almost entirely silver, but dries a dark brown. The males show less of a change, looking black when wet and also drying to a dark brown. In both sexes the underside is paler. The flippers are hairless, dark brown, and leathery. Young animals of both sexes are more the colour of adult females and may easily be confused with them.

Seals have ticklish whiskers

Seals spend much of their time in water but they also haul out onto beaches to rest. It was noticed by people working around the southern fur seals that they are decidedly ticklish. The beaches are very crowded and anyone moving among seals needs some form of protection. It is usual to carry a light bamboo pole to fend off angry seals, but it is useless to belabour them around the head or body. This only annoys them more whereas a gentle tickling of the whiskers will nearly always cause the seal to move aside. This sensitivity of the whiskers is made use of by the cows when they are disturbed by bulls on the breeding beaches. They snap at his whiskers, so driving him away. If he is particularly persistent she may even hang onto his whiskers or bite at his chest. Possibly these sensitive whiskers are used in feeding, as organs of touch, especially when the animal is feeding on the sea bottom, or in murky waters.

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|-----|---|----------|
| (a) | In the opening paragraph of Passage A, what is the writer's response to finding the seal? | 2 |
| (b) | In Passage A, how does the writer's response to the seal develop, and how does his use of language show that development? | 6 |
| (c) | What kind of language is used to describe seals in Passage B? Give TWO examples. | 4 |
| (d) | What are the similarities and differences between the two passages? In your answer you may wish to consider such things as subject matter, language, tone, purpose, structure, and intended audience. | 8 |

SECTION II—WRITING TASK**QUESTION 2** (20 marks)

Answer this question in the Question 2 Answer Booklet provided.

Allow about 40 minutes for this question.



European Migrants, 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 III—TOPIC AREAS

QUESTION 3 (20 marks)

Use a SEPARATE Writing Booklet.

Allow about 40 minutes for this question.

The topic areas for 2000 are (a) Discovery and (b) Satire.

Answer ONE of the following questions.

EITHER

(a) **Discovery**

‘Discovery is as threatening as it is rewarding.’

What do you think? In your response, refer to ONE of the set texts and a variety of supplementary materials.

The texts set for study are listed below.

Isabel Allende, *Paula*

James Bradley, *Wrack*

Mark Baker, *The Fiftieth Gate*

Melina Marchetta, *Looking for Alibrandi*

Sally Morgan, *My Place*

OR

(b) **Satire**

‘Satire exposes human weaknesses to educate and entertain us.’

Has this been your experience of the topic area, Satire? In your response, refer to ONE of the set texts and a variety of supplementary materials.

The texts set for study are listed below.

Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*

Frontline: the story behind the story . . . behind the stories

Joseph Heller, *Catch 22*

George Orwell, *Animal Farm*

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*

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