



HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1999

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 TWO passages, ‘Cairo’ and ‘Chicago’, carefully. They are interpretative responses to two major world cities, each fascinating in its own way.

Analyse the writers’ use of language in conveying their different visions of the city.

PASSAGE A: CAIRO

Cairo is a seething, breathing monster of a city that swallows new arrivals and consumes those who return. All are destined to be captured and captivated in some small way by its incredible past and vibrant present. There are few, if any, cities in the world where the clash between old and new, modern and traditional, and east and west is more evident. Tall, gleaming hotels and office buildings overlook streets where cars and buses rumble and weave past donkey carts and their stubborn drivers. Less than one kilometre from a computer store and supermarket in central Cairo there are mud-brick houses where goats still wander through ‘living rooms’ and water is obtained from taps down the street.

Cairo is still the heart of Egypt and is called the Mother of the World. Since its rise in the 9th century under Ibn Tulun, Egyptians have known Cairo as Al-Qahira, which means ‘the victorious’, and Misr (or Masr), which also means ‘Egypt’. For Egyptians it is the centre of the country and has been attracting them in increasing numbers for centuries. No-one is sure how many people have been drawn in from the countryside, even over the past few years, but the city is bursting at the seams. Some 62 slums and squatter settlements such as Dar al-Salam and Sayyida Zeinab, are home to about five million people. And there are countless numbers of people living in the ancient cemeteries known as the Cities of the Dead. In total, Greater Cairo’s population is estimated at between 18 and 22 million—roughly a quarter of Egypt’s total.

The massive and continual increase in the number of people has overwhelmed the city. Housing shortages are rife; buses are packed to the hilt; snarled traffic paralyses life in the city; and broken pipes spew water and sewage into the streets. Everything is discoloured—buildings, buses and footpaths are brown and grey from smog and desert dust.

*Egypt and the Sudan: A Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit,
3rd edn, Lonely Planet Publications, Hawthorne, 1994.
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QUESTION 1 (Continued)

PASSAGE B: CHICAGO

Hog Butcher for the World,
 Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,
 Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight
 Handler;
 Stormy, husky, brawling,
 City of the Big Shoulders:
 They tell me you are wicked and I believe them, for I
 have seen your painted women under the gas lamps
 luring the farm boys.
 And they tell me you are crooked and I answer: Yes, it
 is true I have seen the gunman kill and go free to
 kill again.
 And they tell me you are brutal and my reply is: On the
 faces of women and children I have seen the marks
 of wanton hunger.
 And having answered so I turn once more to those who
 sneer at this my city, and I give them back the sneer
 and say to them:
 Come and show me another city with lifted head singing
 so proud to be alive and coarse and strong and cunning.
 Flinging magnetic curses amid the toil of piling job on
 job, here is a tall bold slugger set vivid against the
 little soft cities;
 Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action, cunning
 as a savage pitted against the wilderness,
 Bareheaded,
 Shoveling,
 Wrecking,
 Planning,
 Building, breaking, rebuilding,
 Under the smoke, dust all over his mouth, laughing with
 white teeth,
 Under the terrible burden of destiny laughing as a young
 man laughs,
 Laughing even as an ignorant fighter laughs who has
 never lost a battle,
 Bragging and never laughing that under his wrist is the pulse,
 and under his ribs the heart of the people,
 Laughing!
 Laughing the stormy, husky, brawling laughter of Youth,
 half-naked, sweating, proud to be Hog Butcher, Tool
 Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads and
 Freight Handler to the Nation.

Carl Sandburg, (1898–1967), 'Chicago',
 The Norton Anthology of Poetry, 3rd edn, WW
 Norton & Company, New York, 1983

QUESTION 2 Writing Task (20 marks)

Answer this question in the Question 2 Answer Booklet provided.

Allow about 40 minutes for this question.

You have to make a speech on the topic, 'Love is a laugh. Seriously.'

Write out your speech. (Remember you will need to make clear within your speech what audience you are addressing.)

Write at least 300 words.

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SECTION II—SHAKESPEARE

QUESTION 3 *Othello* (25 marks)

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

Discuss the statement that ‘Iago’s use of language shows “the cool logic of persuasion,” Othello’s “the hot power of passion”.’

Use the following TWO passages, one by Iago and one by Othello, and both from *Othello* III. iii, as the starting point for your discussion.

- (a) *Iago* Ay, there’s the point: as, to be bold with you, 230
 Not to affect many proposèd matches
 Of her own clime, complexion, and degree,
 Whereto we see in all things nature tends—
 Foh! one may smell, in such, a will most rank,
 Foul disproportion, thoughts unnatural. 235
 But pardon me: I do not in position
 Distinctly speak of her, though I may fear
 Her will, recoiling to her better judgement,
 May fall to match you with her country forms,
 And happily repent. 240
- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>affect</i>
<i>clime</i>
<i>disproportion</i>
<i>fall to match</i>
<i>country forms</i>
<i>happily</i> | like
country
impropriety
come to compare
own countrymen
perhaps |
|---|--|

QUESTION 3 (Continued)

- (b) *Othello* This fellow's of exceeding honesty 260
 And knows all qualities, with a learnèd spirit,
 Of human dealing. If I do prove her haggard,
 Though that her jesses were my dear heart-strings,
 I'd whistle her off and let her down the wind
 To prey at fortune. Haply for I am black, 265
 And have not those soft parts of conversation
 That chamberers have, or for I am declined
 Into the vale of years—yet that's not much—
 She's gone, I am abused, and my relief
 Must be to loathe her. O curse of marriage, 270
 That we can call these delicate creatures ours,
 And not their appetites! I had rather be a toad
 And live upon the vapour of a dungeon,
 Than keep a corner in the thing I love
 For others' uses. Yet 'tis the plague of great ones, 275
 Prerogated are they less than the base;
 'Tis destiny, unshunnable, like death:
 Even then this forkèd plague is fated to us
 When we do quicken. Look where she comes.

Enter Desdemona and Emilia.

- If she be false, O then heaven mocks itself; 280
 I'll not believe it.

<i>haply for</i>	perhaps because
<i>chamberers</i>	gallants, young men
<i>vapour</i>	stinking air
<i>prerogated</i>	privileged
<i>forkèd plague</i>	cuckold's horns (the mark of deceived husbands)
<i>do quicken</i>	are born

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