

2009 HSC German Extension

Sample Answers — Written Examination

This document contains ‘sample answers’, or, in the case of some questions, ‘answer may include’. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

- (a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills, and
- (b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice, are not intended to be exemplary or even complete responses. They have been reproduced in their original form as part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’. While the handwritten notes have been typed for legibility, no further editorial change or addition has occurred.

Section I — Response to Prescribed Text

Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

He is a returned soldier who has found a part-time position as a Santa for hire with Mulka’s company. He really needs the work and wants to do what is expected of him.

Question 1 (b)

Outcomes assessed: H2.1, H2.3

Sample answer:

Despite the setting of Christmas time, there is no inherent warmth or joy. This is embodied in the character of Mulka who runs his establishment like a military operation, sending the Weihnachtsmänner out as if on a manoeuvre or a tour of duty. He speaks to them without warmth “Du meldest dich bei Könke” and is cynical in his approach to the joy of Christmas by packaging “joy” in appropriate amounts. For him this is a commercial operation and sets the mood of desolation.

Question 1 (c)**Sample answer:**

On the one hand he has a childlike pleasure in seeing the Weihnachtsmann and going through the ritual of present-giving, which he clearly enjoys. (We sense that he has been eagerly anticipating the Weihnachtsmann's arrival.) On the other hand, the sight of the Weihnachtsmann stirs memories of the one who died during the war. He feels guilty for his death and it haunts him. It is like the death of innocence and Köhnke seems to feel the need to be punished for this.

Question 1 (d)**Sample answer:**

Despite the bleak and desolate situation he finds himself in, the narrator is determined to make the best of things and move on. He accepts a menial job – a Weihnachtsmann for hire – even though it is connected to a traumatic experience he had during the war. He finds joy in little things – the warmth of a santa suit left by a previous employee, the fact that the suit fits him so well. Glad to have survived the horrors of the Russian Front, he does not fuss about the fact that he has no nose – in fact he rejects the mask that is so uncomfortable. He willingly accepts the help he needs without complaint. Faced with the tragedy of his former colonel, who has clearly lost his mind, he speaks to him with compassion and kindness. He does not seek to blame him for his misfortune and cannot bring himself to threaten the man who was once his superior. In him he sees a fellow victim. Even though he is so devastated by what has happened, he doesn't throw his job in. He asks for a break – we know he will keep going.