



BOARD OF STUDIES
NEW SOUTH WALES

2011
HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION

WRITING BOOKLET

Examination

History Extension

Section	Part	Question Number
2		2

Date

3/11/11

Number of booklets
used for this question

1 of 2

Instructions

- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page.
- In the boxes provided write the name and date of this examination, and the number(s) of the question(s) attempted in this booklet.
- If you have not attempted the question, you must still hand in the Writing Booklet, with the words 'NOT ATTEMPTED' written clearly on the front cover.
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Start here.

Simon Schama's statement can relate to many different historical studies, in the study of Australian convicts in relates to the case study of convict women, and the documentation provided for them, analysed by historians such as ~~Leslie~~ Leslie Robson and Debra Oxley.

There has always been a bad judgement on the memory of convict women. By the uniformed they were thought of as criminals and prostitutes. With further research you can find that there was more to these women with different roles and representations within their society.

With watching the movie The Floating Boathat we are given an insight into what the convict women were like, we saw what crimes they were punished for and also how they saved the colony in Australia. The women are often misunderstood by people in

today's society. The crimes they committed were often to be able to provide for their family and the ages of the women would vary from childhood into adulthood. The first ships to colonize Australia were filled with men and the colony was failing in the way that they didn't have any female companionship, that's when the convict women were sent to Australia and helped colonize the society we have today.

Robson writes about the crimes of the women and why, he speaks of their prostitution. ~~and~~ Oxley attacks Robson's views in the way that when Robson is trying to say they did it out of necessity, he still delivers a very male dominant society opinion. The problem in our society is that we look down upon prostitutes with judgement. The convict women ~~are~~ thought it as a job, using their bodies to survive, marrying out of necessity.

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It is sad how little information is provided on convict women. Robson and Oxley both provide large amount of statistics and tables of records. There is only a few accounts of people describing the convict women, all making clear the poor opinions they held of them. Oxley and Robson are trying to make a point about how the women weren't all bad, that a large number of the women were literate and hard working women.

There is a recent petition to save the Paramatta female factory in Sydney. The building the last remaining site and it was there that old belongings of the convict women were found. The building is wanted for renovation and to be a weare house for technology. Female members of conservation community's are outraged by the idea of destroying the last site of the womens history. They are

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saying that the destruction of the site shows the clear prejudice and judgement of the convict women, also the lack of respect of Australian womens heritage.

It is the actions like these that will causes historians to be 'forever chasing shadows, painfully aware of their inability ever to reconstruct a dead world! Once this information, evidence and site are gone, they are gone forever. Schama statement showed make people gain a deeper appreciation to the past and even their own history.

I can conclude that Simon Schama is relevant for preserving all evidence of the convict women, they played a major role in sustaining Australia's growth as a country and the destroying of significant sites and information will leave us all wondering about our heritage.