



GRADE 12 EXAMINATION  
NOVEMBER 2011

**ADVANCED PROGRAMME ENGLISH**

Time: 3 hours

300 marks

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**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**

1. This paper consists of 2 pages. Please check that your paper is complete.
2. Read all the questions carefully.
3. You are required to answer all three questions set in this paper.

Question 1: Texts studied from TWO of the following:

- Prose
- Drama
- Film

Question 2: TWO schools of Poetry

Question 3: Philosophical reflection on your reading of the texts you have studied in the Advanced Programme English, as well as your own extended reading.

4. Number your answers exactly as the questions are numbered.
  5. Begin each answer on a new page.
  6. Each answer should take the form of a rigorously argued and thoroughly substantiated essay. There is no prescribed length for the set essays, only an expectation that you argue with accuracy and insight about the texts you have read and that you aim to bring your own voice strongly to the fore in your essays.
  7. It is in your own interest to write legibly and to present your work neatly.
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**QUESTION 1**

"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed."

[Steve Biko (1946 – 1977): South African anti-apartheid campaigner]

Judge the extent to which Biko's statement can be regarded as relevant to the texts you have read.

You might, for example, wish to compare how a leading character in one of the films or plays you have studied is easily manipulated and hurt because of his/her insecure character, and how a powerful man or woman in one of your novels is triumphant because of a highly actualised sense of self and strong sense of purpose. You might want to show how different 'minds' or personalities or attitudes react differently to complexity and difficulty, and how people who enjoy exerting bullying power succeed most with particular types of 'minds'.

[100]

**QUESTION 2**

"Literature is news that stays news."

[Ezra Pound (1885 – 1972), American poet: *ABC of Reading*]

Critically discuss how the two schools of poetry you have studied reflect Pound's opinion in the quotation above.

In your response you should explore **why** issues of the poets' particular periods are relevant to a contemporary audience, and **how** poets ensure that these issues **remain** relevant.

[100]

**QUESTION 3**

Consider all you have read for the Advanced Programme English course as well as your own extended reading.

In Reif Larsen's novel, *The Collected Works of TS Spivet*, one of the characters is a Grade 7 teacher, Mr Stenpock.

"Mr Stenpock was a tricky creature. A single glance would confirm this when one took in both the Scotch tape securing one hinge of his outdated bifocals and the fact that Mr Stenpock always wore a noisy leather jacket while teaching, a fashion statement that tried (and yet failed) to say, 'Children, I probably do things after school that you are not ready to know about just yet'. I have since coined the term *Stenpock*<sup>1</sup>."

**Glossary:**

**Stenpock** n. Any adult who insists on staying within the confines of his or her job title and harbours no passion for the offbeat or the incredible.

If everyone was a Stenpock, we would still be in the Middle Ages.

Consider the extent to which the texts that made the greatest impact on you were anchored by people, and their ideas that could **not** be described as being 'Stenpock'.

[100]

**Total: 300 marks**