



NSW Education Standards Authority

2025 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

English Standard

Paper 2 – Modules

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- General Instructions**
- Reading time – 5 minutes
 - Working time – 2 hours
 - Write using black pen

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- Total marks:** 60
- Section I – 20 marks** (pages 2–3)
- Attempt Question 1
 - Allow about 40 minutes for this section
- Section II – 20 marks** (pages 4–5)
- Attempt Question 2
 - Allow about 40 minutes for this section
- Section III – 20 marks** (page 6)
- Attempt Question 3
 - Allow about 40 minutes for this section

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Section I — Module A: Language, Identity and Culture

20 marks

Attempt Question 1

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

Answer the question on pages 2–8 of the Paper 2 Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate understanding of how ideas about language, identity and culture are expressed through texts
- demonstrate understanding of how language is used to shape meaning about individuals and/or cultural groups
- organise, develop and express ideas using language appropriate to audience, purpose and form

Question 1 (20 marks)

How does your prescribed text reveal the benefits and challenges of belonging to specific cultures?

In your response, make close reference to your prescribed text.

The Module A prescribed texts are listed on page 3.

The Module A prescribed texts are:

- **Prose Fiction** – Henry Lawson, *The Penguin Henry Lawson Short Stories*
 - * *The Drover's Wife*
 - * *The Union Buries Its Dead*
 - * *Shooting the Moon*
 - * *Our Pipes*
 - * *The Loaded Dog*
- Andrea Levy, *Small Island*
- **Poetry** – Adam Aitken, Kim Cheng Boey and Michelle Cahill (eds), *Contemporary Asian Australian Poets*

The prescribed poems are:

 - * Merlinda Bobis, *This is where it begins*
 - * Miriam Wei Wei Lo, *Home*
 - * Ouyang Yu, *New Accents*
 - * Vuong Pham, *Mother*
 - * Jaya Savige, *Circular Breathing*
 - * Maureen Ten (Ten Ch'in Ü), *Translucent Jade*
- Ali Cobby Eckermann, *Inside my Mother*

The prescribed poems are:

 - * *Trance*
 - * *Unearth*
 - * *Oombulgarri*
 - * *Eyes*
 - * *Leaves*
 - * *Key*
- **Drama** – Ray Lawler, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*
 - Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion*
 - Alana Valentine, *Shafana and Aunt Sarrinah*
- **Nonfiction** – Alice Pung, *Unpolished Gem*
- **Film** – Rachel Perkins, *One Night the Moon*
 - Rob Sitch, *The Castle*
- **Media** – Janet Merewether, *Reindeer in my Saami Heart*

End of Section I

Section II – Module B: Close Study of Literature

20 marks

Attempt Question 2

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

Answer the question on pages 10–16 of the Paper 2 Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate understanding of a text's distinctive qualities and how these shape meaning
 - organise, develop and express ideas using language appropriate to audience, purpose and form
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Question 2 (20 marks)

Analyse how different values and attitudes are exposed through the key features of your prescribed text.

In your response, make close reference to your prescribed text.

The Module B prescribed texts are listed on page 5.

The Module B prescribed texts are:

- **Prose Fiction** – M T Anderson, *Feed*
– Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*
- **Poetry** – Robert Gray, *Coast Road*
The prescribed poems are:
 - * *Journey, the North Coast*
 - * *Flames and Dangling Wire*
 - * *Harbour Dusk*
 - * *Byron Bay: Winter*
 - * *Description of a Walk*
 - * *24 Poems*– Oodgeroo Noonuccal
The prescribed poems are:
 - * *The Past*
 - * *China ... Woman*
 - * *Reed Flute Cave*
 - * *Entombed Warriors*
 - * *Visit to Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall*
 - * *Sunrise on Huampu River*
 - * *A Lake Within a Lake*
- **Drama** – Scott Rankin, *Namatjira* from *Namatjira and Ngapartji Ngapartji*
– William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- **Nonfiction** – Anna Funder, *Stasiland*
- **Film** – Peter Weir, *The Truman Show*
- **Media** – Simon Nasht, *Frank Hurley: The Man Who Made History*

End of Section II

Section III — Module C: The Craft of Writing

20 marks

Attempt Question 3

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

Answer the question on pages 18–24 of the Paper 2 Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- craft language to address the demands of the question
 - use language appropriate to audience, purpose and form to shape meaning
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Question 3 (20 marks)

‘A fond memory brings you a wave of comfort and ignites the senses. It’s the kind of memory you can visualise and describe in rich detail.’

Using the stimulus above, craft an imaginative or discursive piece of writing that captures the richness of a fond memory.

End of paper

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