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GRADE 12: HOME LANGUAGE ENGLISH
PAPER II

MARKS: 100

DATE: Aug 2024

TIME: 3 hours

EXAMINER: Ms C McIntyre

MODERATORS: Dr E Scheckle, Ms J Visser

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

1. This question paper consists of 8 pages. Please check that your question paper is complete.
2. Utilise your reading time carefully, ensuring that the selections made showcase your ability to share your response to the texts.
3. Questions must be answered in **BOTH SECTIONS**. In **SECTION A**, Question 1 is **compulsory** and then answer **ONE** question on the selected novel. In **SECTION B**, Question 6 is **compulsory**, and then answer **either** Question 7 **or** Question 8.
4. Number your answers exactly as the questions are numbered.
5. **Begin each QUESTION on a new page.** Do not copy down headings for your answers. Copy down **only** the question numbers, making sure they are accurate.
6. You may answer the questions in whatever order you wish, but number your answers exactly as the questions are numbered.
7. **No word count is required for ANY QUESTION.**
8. You are encouraged to give your own judgements. Attempt to create space in which your **own voice** can be evident. The examiners will judge your answers on your understanding of and insight into given texts. They will also assess the competence with which your answers are expressed.
9. Follow instructions in each question with meticulous care.
10. Answers must be hand-written on A4 exam-pad.
11. It is in your own interest to write legibly and to present your work neatly.
12. When instructed, scan your work and send a single PDF file that shows your work clearly before disconnecting from the examination session.

SECTION A LITERATURE

QUESTION 1

SHAKESPEARE: *OTHELLO*

THIS QUESTION IS COMPULSORY

Study the quotation below and then write a literary essay in response to the topic that follows:

'The character, Othello, deserves our full contempt. In allowing himself to be duped by Iago, he forfeits our sympathy and deserves his fate. Far from being a 'hero', he is a weak, foolish man, driven by his pride until he meets his ignominious end.'

[Source Romma Pirr: Critics comments in 'The Oxford Shakespeare *Othello*']

TOPIC:

Critically discuss to what extent you interpret the character of Othello as **weak** and **foolish**, and ultimately **deserving of his fate**.

Please note:

- Your response must be in the form of a well-structured literary essay.
- The length of your response must be **approximately 600 words**.
- Your knowledge of Shakespeare's text, *Othello*, and your ability to structure and substantiate your stance in order to develop a **tightly constructed argument** will be assessed.
- **Close** and **relevant** reference to the play is essential.
- Do **NOT** provide a word count at the end of your essay.

[30]

AND

NOVELS***THE HANDMAID'S TALE OR THE THEORY OF FLIGHT***

Answer **ONE** question on your selected novel.

Answer **EITHER**

Question 2 (*The Handmaid's Tale*)

OR

Question 3 (*The Handmaid's Tale*)

OR

Question 4 (*The Theory of Flight*)

OR

Question 5 (*The Theory of Flight*)

Please note:

- Your response must be in the form of a well-structured literary essay.
- Your essay should be **approximately 600 words** in length.
- Your ability to select detail from the novel, in order to develop a **succinct argument**, which is clearly focused and perceptive, will be assessed.
- **Close** and **relevant** reference to the text in the question is **essential**.
- Do **NOT** provide a word count at the end of your essay.

EITHER

QUESTION 2

THE HANDMAID'S TALE: MARGARET ATWOOD

Read the following:

The quality of literature is often determined by its ability to engage and captivate the reader with well-developed characters, a compelling plot, and excellent writing style.

- AI Generated comment

TOPIC:

Critically discuss to what extent Atwood, in *The Handmaid's Tale*, captivates the reader through her **characters**, **plot** and **style**.

You must refer to a minimum of TWO characters in your response.

[30]

OR

QUESTION 3

THE HANDMAID'S TALE: MARGARET ATWOOD

Read the following:

'Ultimately, language and storytelling become the narrator's primary and most effective methods of resisting Gilead. Through her storytelling, the narrator of *The Handmaid's Tale* obtains the power to reclaim her identity and rewrite history, allowing her to become the most influential rebel in Gilead's time.'

- Elena Morgan

[Source: <https://freshwriting.nd.edu/essays/language-and-storytelling-as-a-means-of-resistance-in-a-handmaids-tale/>]

TOPIC:

Critically discuss to what extent Offred, in *The Handmaid's Tale*, becomes the most **influential rebel** in the novel through her act of **storytelling**.

[30]

OR

QUESTION 4**THE THEORY OF FLIGHT: SIPHIWE GLORIA NDLOVU**

Read the following:

The quality of literature is often determined by its ability to engage and captivate the reader with well-developed characters, a compelling plot, and excellent writing style.

- AI Generated comment

TOPIC:

Critically discuss to what extent Ndlovu, in *The Theory of Flight*, captivates the reader through her **characters**, **plot** and **style**.

You must refer to a minimum of TWO characters in your response.

[30]

OR

QUESTION 5**THE THEORY OF FLIGHT: SIPHIWE GLORIA NDLOVU**

Read the following:

'It is important to see how the novel presents a lack of naming as an entry to a world of infinite possibility but that it can also be used to erase possibility. There are always two sides to the shiny sixpence.'

- Ruth Everson

Source: IEB Presentation National User Group Conference 2022]

TOPIC:

Critically discuss to what extent Ndlovu, in her novel *The Theory of Flight*, successfully presents 'naming as an entry to a **world of infinite possibility**' and whether naming 'can also be used to **erase possibilities**'.

[30]

60 marks

SECTION B**TRANSACTIONAL WRITING: SHORT PIECES****Please note:**

- Answer **TWO** of the following questions.
- You must answer **Question 6 (compulsory)** and then answer **either Question 7 or Question 8**.
- The body of your response should be **approximately 250 to 300 words** in length.
- Remember to pay attention to the **register** and **purpose** of your text.
- It is essential that the **appropriate format** is used.

QUESTION 6**THIS QUESTION IS COMPULSORY**

Read the text below and answer the question that follows.

Introducing military conscription could save South Africa and its youth

It is that time of the year when all matric pupils are applying for university spaces. Some of them should ordinarily be going to the Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to acquire skills, joining the military and police training academies. However, this will not be happening.

Everyone wants to become a university graduate. So current and prospective students at this time engage in ritual protests demanding expansion of university access. Those who graduate with university degrees continue to swell the number of unemployed graduates.

This is South Africa, where unemployment among the youth is estimated to be between 59 and 60% and the highest in the world. It is the same country with the highest gap between the rich and the poor (Gini co-efficient of 0.65).

The big question is how we should address the multitudes of our problems as a country, explicitly considering that resolving the youth skills and unemployment problem might very well unlock solutions to other issues confronting us. Perhaps it is time that we seriously consider military conscriptions.

- Fulufhelo Netswera

[Source ADAPTED: <https://www.news24.com/news24/opinions/columnists/guestcolumn/opinion-introducing-military-conscription-could-save-south-africa-and-its-youth-20210415>]

As a young person whose Grade 12 year is coming to a close, write an **open letter** to President Cyril Ramaphosa in which you give your views on introducing compulsory military service in South Africa.

[20]

AND

BOTH QUESTION 7 AND QUESTION 8 ARE BASED ON THE EXTRACT BELOW.

Read the following text and then answer **ONE** of the questions that follow on page 8.

The ‘boring phone’: stressed-out gen Z ditch smartphones for dumbphones

It’s almost enough to make you stop doomscrolling: dull devices are now cool.

The Boring Phone is a new, featureless flip phone that is feeding the growing appetites of younger people who want to bin their smartphones in favour of a dumbphone.

The latest model is a collaboration between Heineken beer and the fashion retailer Bodega, and caused a storm when it was unveiled this month at Milan design week, the place where trends are anointed by the world’s designers. The Boring Phone is part of a new dumbphone boom, built on the suspicion of gen Z towards the data- and attention-harvesting technologies they have grown up with.

“I’ve always hated being available to everyone,” said Rana Ali. The 29-year-old former finance worker, who is now a music producer and rapper recording as Surya Sen, added: “The idea that if you send a WhatsApp to someone and they don’t respond immediately then something’s wrong. I’ve had periods of having a smartphone but I always revert back to having a burner phone.”

Nostalgia for the Nokia 3310, the “brick” phone with seemingly everlasting battery life, prompted its relaunch in 2017, but the boom really began in the US last year and was, ironically, fuelled by TikTokers posting under the #bringbackflipphones hashtag. HMD, which was behind the Nokia relaunch, saw its flip phone sales double by April 2023, while Punkt, which prefers to call them feature phones or minimalist phones, has also seen substantial sales increases.

This move to offlining, or digital minimalism, is also seen in gen Z’s declining use of social media. They are the only generation whose time on social media has fallen since 2021, according to GWI, another research company, although older people are digitally detoxing too.

Twentysomethings are also more concerned about privacy, according to the technology analyst Portulans Institute, in an internet that can seem more like a surveillance tool for brands, governments and scammers than a place to pursue interests and find interesting people.

The Luddite Club, a group of New York schoolchildren who announced in December 2022 they were giving up their iPhones in favour of flip phones, would still need their smartphones, said Petter Neby, the founder of Punkt. “It’s impossible,” he said. “In UK schools you’re talking about banning the smartphone but you have a school system that relies on online activity, for scheduling, for homework. I would love to ban smartphones for my children, but it’s a much deeper question. We need to have a balance.”

- J Tapper & A Ahmed

[Source adapted: [The ‘boring phone’: stressed-out gen Z ditch smartphones for dumbphones | Young people | The Guardian](#)]

Answer **EITHER** Question 7 **OR** Question 8

QUESTION 7

Write a **eulogy** to mark the demise of the smartphone in the wake of the drive for 'offlining' or digital minimalism. Your piece would probably be **satirical** in tone, and might include humour.

[20]

OR

QUESTION 8

As a matriculant who holds significant sway over younger students, you have been invited to deliver a **speech** to the school student body in which you express your views on the possible establishment of a South African 'Luddite Club' advocating for the giving up of iPhones in favour of boring flip phones. You may support this trend or argue against the 'binning' of smartphones.

[20]

40 marks

Total: 100 marks