



The 2022 English Olympiad

Theme: The Future – Utopia or Dystopia?

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE (HL) EXAMINATION

DATE: Tuesday, 8 March 2022

STARTING TIME: Between 11:00 and 14:00, at the discretion of your school.

TIME ALLOCATION: 3 hours (plus 15 minutes reading time before candidates start writing)

TEXT/ANTHOLOGY: *A Brave New World*

TOTAL MARKS: 100

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS:

This examination is to be written under normal examination conditions, with full invigilation.

Candidates may have the following with them in the examination venue:

- pens, pencils, rulers and erasers
- the Anthology (*A Brave New World*) which may contain underlining or highlighting, but no notes
- a dictionary

During the examination, candidates may not have access to an Olympiad Study Guide or to any other notes or documents, or to cell phones or information systems of any kind.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. **Please write clearly and legibly.** Marks will be deducted for illegible handwriting.
2. Write all your answers in your Examination Answer Booklet.
3. Start each section at the top of a new page, and write the number of the question above each of your answers – eg A3, B5, etc.
4. On the cover of your Examination Answer Booklet, please clearly indicate:
 - your school's Olympiad Centre Number;
 - your personal Examination Number; and
 - the number of each of the questions that you have answered.

Do NOT write your name, your address or the name of your school on the cover, or anywhere else in your Examination Answer Booklet.
5. You are required to answer:
 - a) one question from **SECTION A** (60 marks)
 - b) one question from **SECTION B** (40 marks)

You are invited to draw from and to refer to your extended reading, but the main focus of your essay should be upon the texts contained in the Anthology.

We value your responses. Enjoy the experience.

DO NOT TURN OVER THIS PAGE WITHOUT PERMISSION

Select **ONE** of the following options and write an essay of **450 to 550 words** in response to your chosen topic. **ESSAYS IN EXCESS OF THE PRESCRIBED LENGTH WILL INCUR PENALTIES.**

Note: You are invited to express your own ideas in response to the questions in Section A, using your own voice. There are no model answers, but you are expected to refer liberally to the relevant works in the Anthology, and to provide your personal response to the material and to the question that you have chosen to answer.

Remember to quote or to refer closely to the relevant text/s to substantiate your ideas.

Question A1:

Jacques-Yves Cousteau, known for his beautiful visual documentation of the natural world, has the following to say about nature: “For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive; in this century he is beginning to realise that, in order to survive, he must protect it.”

Referring to ‘Eclipse Our Sins’, ‘We May Be Brothers After All,’ ‘Humanity on the Edge’ and/or ‘The World is Too Much with Us’, evaluate the manner in which these texts highlight human responsibility to nature and climate change in the future.

Question A2:

Climate activist Greta Thunberg had this to say at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019:

You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I’m one of the lucky ones... We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

Referring to three texts in the Anthology, comment on the selfishness of humanity and assess the extent to which the future inspires hope or anticipates disaster.

Question A3:

Man will always persecute prophets, hunt them, exile them and kill them. Compare the position taken by John F Kennedy in his inaugural address with that taken by the Reverend Martin Luther King Junior in his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech, and discuss how these men saw the future, especially as it related to societal problems. Quote from at least one other source in the Anthology.

Question A4:

Referring to the Anthology’s cover design (created by Vanessa Smith of Alexander Road High School), and at least two texts from the Anthology, discuss how big data might positively influence or negatively affect the future of today’s youth.

Question A5:

Consider the following words of Neil de Grasse Tyson about nature:

Even with all our technology and the inventions that make life so much easier than it once was, it takes just one big natural disaster to wipe all that away and remind us that, here on Earth, we’re still at the mercy of nature.

Nature and the natural world are central to the theme of the Anthology. Select two or three texts and examine the treatment of the theme of the pivotal role that nature plays in man’s life, and the relevance such texts have for life in the 21st Century.

Question A6:

Referring to the poems 'The World is Too Much with Us', 'God's Grandeur' and 'The Horses', and to Chief Seattle's 'We May Be Brothers After All' (originally a letter to the government in Washington), write an essay discussing how poets and visionaries of the past respected creation, while at the same time expressing fear for the future.

Question A7:

Alvin Toffler, famous futurist and commentator on the digital and communication revolutions, had the following to say about technology: "Our technological powers increase, but the side effects and potential hazards also escalate."

In a well-structured essay discuss the findings of Yuval Noah Harari and comment on the effects that surveillance and data monopoly might have on the world population. In your essay, refer to at least one other text from the Anthology.

Question A8:

Consider the following excerpt from Act V, Scene i of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare:

Miranda: O, wonder!
How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world
That has such people in't!

Prospero: 'Tis new to thee.

Write an essay in which you sympathise either with Miranda's idealistic view or with her father's rather cynical view of mankind. Refer to the excerpt from Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and at least one other text from the Anthology to substantiate your discussion.

Question A9:

Renowned psychotherapist Carl Rogers makes this remark in his book *On Becoming a Person*:

... if the result of my efforts and those of others is that man becomes a robot, created and controlled by a science of his own making, I am very unhappy indeed. If the good life of the future consists in so conditioning individuals through the control of the rewards they receive, that they will be inexorably productive, well-behaved and happy or whatever, then I want none of it.

In considering Carl Rogers's statement, examine at least two texts in the Anthology, and comment on the calamitous destruction of free will resulting from human desire and arrogance.

[TOTAL MARKS FOR SECTION A: 60]

Select ONE of the following options, keeping your answer within the number of words indicated. Your answer will be assessed based on the appropriateness of your register and diction.

Caution: You may not answer a question on an author whose writing you discussed in Section A. If you do so, your answer will not be considered. You may, however, address a question which includes a group of authors, one of whom you have discussed in Section A.

Question B1: 'I have a dream' (250 – 300 words)

Imagine that you are Dr Martin Luther King Jnr and you are living today. Write the speech that you would make as you look back over the last 100 years. Refer to the speeches in the Anthology.

Question B2: Dialogue (250 – 300 words)

Write a dramatic presentation in dialogue form in which THREE of the following people exchange their respective views about the future:

Aldous Huxley, Miranda, Chief Seattle, Yuval Noah Harari, Tlotlo Tsamaase.

Question B3: 'Sugared Almonds' (250 – 300 words)

'Sugared Almonds' is a delicately told and convincing story of the effects of the Corona virus. Write a short story of your own, inspired by the everyday events of the past two years. Bring in subtle but recognisable references to the text in the Anthology.

Question B4: Letter (250 – 300 words)

Imagine that Miranda comes to America to attend NYU (the University of New York) and she registers for a course in English Literature to study the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins and William Wordsworth. In her studies and in her student life she has become aware of the changes all around her over the past 400 years. She writes a long letter to her father outlining the changes she has found in the world. Write the letter she would send, clearly showing her state of mind.

Question B5: *Brave New World* (250 – 300 words)

Write an exposé for the *Mail and Guardian* on the introduction of the drug Soma, and the probable implications it will have on the population in future years. Make subtle reference to the points of view of other writers or characters in the Anthology.

OR

Write a propaganda-based article encouraging the population to start accepting the new, free, government-supplied mood enhancer, Soma, available from one of many accessible dispensaries.

Question B6: 'Eclipse Our Sins' (150 – 250 words)

If you are a fan of the graphic novel genre, and would like to speak to us through art, use 'Eclipse Our Sins' to provide the inspiration for six to eight frames of richly dark graphic text. You are expected to blend your illustration with appropriate dialogue and written text. (Note: DO NOT attempt this question unless you are familiar with the genre.)

Question B7: 'We May Be Brothers After All' (150 – 250 words)

Write a longer poem inspired by Chief Seattle's letter 'We May Be Brothers After All'. You may 'borrow' a word (diction) from other writers in the Anthology, but **do not plagiarise** whole lines, sentences or phrases. Your poem may be of any genre you choose - eg narrative, lyrical, rhymed or unrhymed.

[TOTAL MARKS FOR SECTION B: 40]

TOTAL: 100