



The 2023 English Olympiad

Theme: Care and Compassion

ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (FAL) EXAMINATION

DATE: Tuesday, 7 March 2023

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 Better World*

TOTAL MARKS: 100

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS:

This examination must 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 Better 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 other 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.

Notes: You should express your own ideas in response to the questions.

There are no model answers.

You should quote from the texts in your anthology to substantiate your ideas.

Question A1

“At every step the child should be allowed to meet the real experience of life; the thorns should never be plucked from the roses.” – Ellen Key

The poem ‘Prayer before Birth’, is set out as a plea from an unborn child who prays to God to protect him from various evils.

In an essay discuss the various evils and issues that are highlighted in the poem, such as the corruption of humanity, nature versus industrialisation, modern conformity and free will. Comment on the lack of, or the necessity for, care and compassion in the world.

Question A2

“Nature and nurture conspire together. One must keep both in view. But, if we are interested in a full understanding of human behaviour, then nurture is especially important.” – Jesse J. Prinz

Drawing from three different texts in the anthology, discuss whether you agree with Prinz’s views.

Question A3

“There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want, and that they can grow up in peace.” – Kofi Annan

Human trafficking is rife in today’s society and children’s rights are being violated across the world.

Drawing from three different texts, discuss the children’s rights that are being infringed upon in today’s society. What measures should be put into place to prevent the violation of children’s rights?

Question A4

In an essay, discuss the differences and similarities between the poems ‘The Passionate Shepherd to his Love’ by Christopher Marlowe and ‘The Nymph’s reply to the Shepherd’ by Walter Raleigh.

Question A5

One of the main themes in *Oliver Twist* is that the people with low social ranking were treated badly. Oliver Twist lands up in a workhouse in which he is ill-treated. Are places such as workhouses and reformatories likely to breed criminals?

Write an essay discussing this topic, referring to at least two other texts in the anthology.

Question A6

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” – Nelson Mandela

Write an essay examining the differences and similarities between ‘Prayer before Birth’ and ‘The Cry of the Children’.

Question A7

In the modern South African poem ‘Take me to the riot’, the speaker exults in being destructive.

Write an essay in which you consider what might cause this defiance and suggest a possible solution to this attitude. Refer to at least one other text in this anthology.

Question A8

The anthology is redolent with gloom and doom scenarios that depict mankind as uncaring towards its children and the vulnerable. In the delightful modern 'Sonnet to a Sk8r Girl', however, the then schoolboy, Hau-Yoon, has his speaker claim that the youngster 'has an open mind and caring heart'. Are people like the Sk8r Girl the answer to all this pain and suffering?

Write an essay in which you, as a young person, look forward to making our world a 'better place'. Remember to quote extensively from the anthology to substantiate and give depth to your answer.

SECTION B: CREATIVE RESPONSES

40 MARKS

Select **ONE** of the following options and write a creative piece, keeping your answer within the number of words indicated.

Your answer will be assessed based on the appropriateness of your register and diction.

Caution: In this section you may **not** answer a question based upon a text that you have discussed extensively in Section A. If you do so your answer will not be considered.

You **may**, however, answer a question that includes a **group of authors, one of whom** you discussed in Section A.

Question B1: Letter to a newspaper (250 to 300 words)

Write a **letter to a newspaper** in which you express your concern that The Children's Bill, which went before Parliament in 2003, is being flouted in South Africa. Write only the body of the letter and omit the address and salutation.

Question B2: Speech (250 to 300 words)

Imagine you are a member of the British Parliament during the Victorian era when Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist* and Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote 'The Cry of the Children'. Write a **speech** in which you try to persuade the house to vote in favour of a reform bill limiting the age of child labourers.

Question B3: Short Story (250 to 300 words)

Write a **short story** to give the *Oliver Twist* tale a happy ending.

Begin: 'The next morning Oliver was led out of his room of confinement and ...'

Question B4: Prayer (250 to 300 words)

Drawing from your own experience, write a **prayer** to God about the social ills that you have either seen or experienced.

Question B5: Newspaper Editorial (250 to 300 words)

The speaker in 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum' pleads with authority figures to rectify the appalling conditions found in the school he describes. Write a **newspaper editorial** in which you describe and comment on a few of the problems found in some South African schools.

Question B6: Dialogue (250 to 300 words)

Write a **dialogue** between Dr de Valdeiros and another (fictitious) doctor who runs a successful, up-market practice that charges above medical aid recommended fees. Refer to these two doctors as 'de Valdeiros' and 'Rich Doctor' in your dialogue.

Question B7: Dialogue (250 to 300 words)

Write a **dialogue** between you and a friend debating/discussing the 'nature vs nurture' argument.

TOTAL MARKS: 60 + 40 = 100