

Inspiration **ED**

SAMPLE - HSC SIMULATED EXAM

English Standard Paper 1: Texts & Human Experiences

General Instructions

- Reading time – 10 minutes
- Working time – 1 hour 30 minutes
- Write using a black pen
- A stimulus book is provided at the front of this paper

Total Marks: 40

Section I – 20 marks

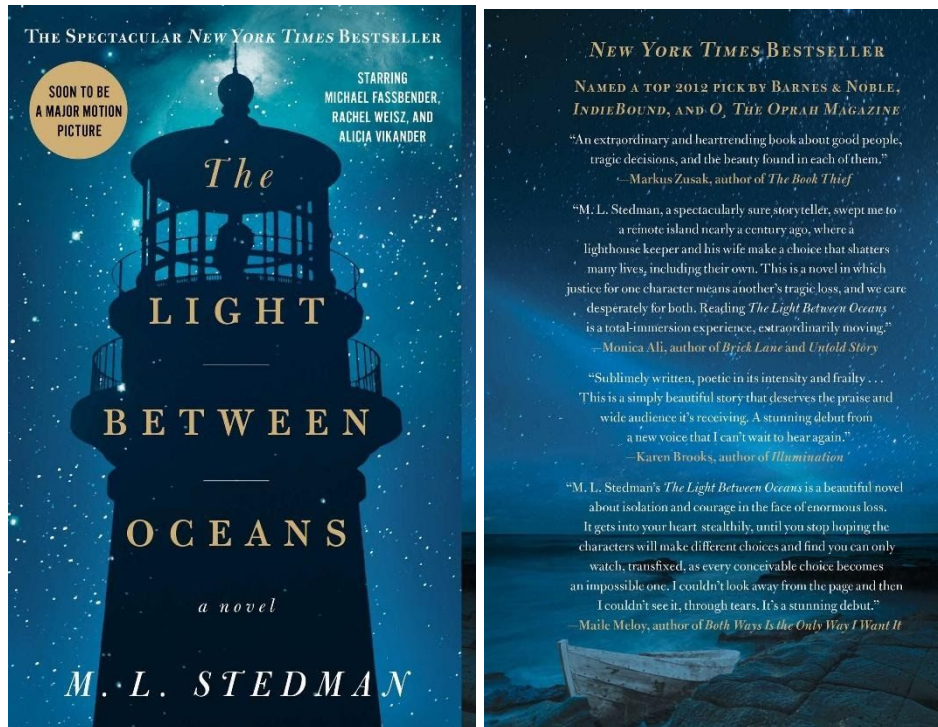
- Attempt Questions 1-5
- Allow about 45 mins for this section

Section II – 20 marks

- Attempt Question 6
- Allow about 45 minutes for this section

Stimulus Booklet

Text 1 — Book Cover



Text 2 — Poem

The New Experience

I was ready for a new experience.
All the old ones had burned out.

They lay in little ashy heaps along the roadside
And blew in drifts across the fairgrounds and fields.

From a distance some appeared to be smoldering
But when I approached with my hat in my hands

They let out small puffs of smoke and expired.
Through the windows of houses I saw lives lit up

With the otherworldly glow of TV
And these were smoking a little bit too.

I flew to Rome. I flew to Greece.
I sat on a rock in the shade of the Acropolis

And conjured dusky columns in the clouds.
I watched waves lap the crumbling coast.

I heard wind strip the woods.
I saw the last living snow leopard

Pacing in the dirt. Experience taught me
That nothing worth doing is worth doing

For the sake of experience alone.
I bit into an apple that tasted sweetly of time.

The sun came out. It was the old sun
With only a few billion years left to shine.

Suzanne Buffam

Text 3 — Website

HUMANS OF NEW YORK


Refugee Stories

STORIES • COUNTRIES • SERIES • SHARE

NYC ONE OF A KIND

“Everyday I drive the van to the port and hand out bread to the refugees.”


OCTOBER 2015: KOS, GREECE



“My father was a farmer and we had eight siblings. I went to Australia when I was fifteen because my family didn’t have enough to eat. I was on a boat for forty days. When I got there, I couldn’t find a job, I couldn’t speak English, and I had to sleep on the street. I know what it’s like. So everyday I drive the van to the port and hand out bread to the refugees. My son is my business partner. He says, ‘Baba, please. It’s fine to help. But not every day.’ But I still go every day because I know what it feels like to have nothing.” (Kos, Greece)

SHARE THIS STORY


Read More Stories



KOS, GREECE

“But what could I do? I had no choice. Then two weeks later she called with even worse news.”

READ STORY



KOS, GREECE

“In the ocean we hit a rock, but the captain told us not to worry.”

READ STORY

STORIES • COUNTRIES • SERIES • ABOUT • [4. Like](#) 100% positive feedback. Sign up to see what your friends like.

NEW YORK
TIMOTHY O'CONNOR
BEST
SELLER

From: <https://www.humansofnewyork.com/tagged/refugee-stories#4>

Text 4 — Prose fiction extract

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

'Wake up, Alice dear!' said her sister; 'Why, what a long sleep you've had!'

'Oh, I've had such a curious dream!' said Alice, and she told her sister, as well as she could remember them, all these strange Adventures of hers that you have just been reading about; and when she had finished, her sister kissed her, and said, 'It was a curious dream, dear, certainly: but now run in to your tea; it's getting late.' So Alice got up and ran off, thinking while she ran, as well she might, what a wonderful dream it had been.

But her sister sat still just as she left her, leaning her head on her hand, watching the setting sun, and thinking of little Alice and all her wonderful Adventures, till she too began dreaming after a fashion, and this was her dream:--

First, she dreamed of little Alice herself, and once again the tiny hands were clasped upon her knee, and the bright eager eyes were looking up into hers--she could hear the very tones of her voice, and see that queer little toss of her head to keep back the wandering hair that would always get into her eyes--and still as she listened, or seemed to listen, the whole place around her became alive the strange creatures of her little sister's dream.

The long grass rustled at her feet as the White Rabbit hurried by--the frightened Mouse splashed his way through the neighbouring pool--she could hear the rattle of the teacups as the March Hare and his friends shared their never-ending meal, and the shrill voice of the Queen ordering off her unfortunate guests to execution--once more the pig-baby was sneezing on the Duchess's knee, while plates and dishes crashed around it--once more the shriek of the Gryphon, the squeaking of the Lizard's slate-pencil, and the choking of the suppressed guinea-pigs, filled the air, mixed up with the distant sobs of the miserable Mock Turtle.

So she sat on, with closed eyes, and half believed herself in Wonderland, though she knew she had but to open them again, and all would change to dull reality--the grass would be only rustling in the wind, and the pool rippling to the waving of the reeds--the rattling teacups would change to tinkling sheep-bells, and the Queen's shrill cries to the voice of the shepherd boy--and the sneeze of the baby, the shriek of the Gryphon, and all thy other queer noises, would change (she knew) to the confused clamour of the busy farm-yard--while the lowing of the cattle in the distance would take the place of the Mock Turtle's heavy sobs.

Lastly, she pictured to herself how this same little sister of hers would, in the after-time, be herself a grown woman; and how she would keep, through all her riper years, the simple and loving heart of her childhood: and how she would gather about her other little children, and make their eyes bright and eager with many a strange tale, perhaps even with the dream of Wonderland of long ago: and how she would feel with all their simple sorrows, and find a pleasure in all their simple joys, remembering her own child-life, and the happy summer days.

Question 2 (4 marks)

Text 2 — Poem

Explain how the poem represents an attitude towards new experiences.

4

Refer to the poem in your response.

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Inspiration **ED**

SAMPLE - HSC SIMULATED EXAM

Marking Criteria

English Standard

Unseen Texts

Section I - Unseen Texts

Question 1 (3 marks)

Text 1 — Book cover

Explain how this book cover represents intense human emotions

Question 1

Criteria	Marks
• Explains effectively how the book cover represents intense human emotions	3
• Explains how the book cover represents intense human emotions	2
• Provides some relevant information about the text	1

Sample answer:

This book cover, with its use of visual and written images, conveys the intensity of juxtaposing emotions of loss and searching, despair and hope. The salient image of the lighthouse suggests an optimistic search in a darkened night. Equally, the starry night symbolises the possibility of hope in a vast darkened emotional landscape of intense human emotions. The book cover also uses written text to foreshadow the emotional intensity of the narrative held within the pages. Word choice such as: “heartrending”, “tragic”, “moving”, “intensity and frailty”, “isolation and courage”, “enormous loss” all indicate the intensity to come. This is given weight by the symbolism and inclusion of other famous authors who are equally known for their emotionally intense narratives.

Answers could include:

- Quotes / word choice / diction / superlatives / adjectives – “extraordinary”, “heartrending”, “tragic”, “moving”, “intensity and frailty”, “isolation and courage”, “enormous loss”
- Quotes from famous/acclaimed writers give value/meaning/weight to the story/meaning/emotional intensity – also foreshadow the plot of the emotional story
- Use of evaluative language
- Title – words symbolic – something in between suggests opportunity or hope
- Symbol of the lighthouse = searching, loss, guidance
- Colour/Atmosphere / Setting – night / starry evening / darkness of humanity / emotional darkness
- Symbol of the ocean = loss / vastness / impossibility
- Stars symbolise hope
- Boat symbolises – hope or abandonment

Question 2 (4 marks)

Text 2 — Poem

Explain how the poem represents an attitude towards new experiences.

Refer to the poem in your response.

Question 2

Criteria	Marks
• Explains effectively how the poet represents an attitude towards new experiences, using detailed, well-chosen supporting evidence	4
• Explains how the poet represents an attitude towards new experiences, using detailed, well-chosen supporting evidence	3
• Describes how the poet represents an attitude towards new experiences, using detailed, well-chosen supporting evidence	2
• Makes a relevant point about experiences	1

Sample answer:

The poem presents an eagerness to new experiences. The free verse structure and couplet stanzas creates an impatience that the persona is eager for something new. The persona is swift to dismiss the experiences that have gone before suggesting that “old” experiences have “burned out” and extends this metaphor with images of “ashy”, “smouldering” and “smoke”. There is a tone of eagerness as the persona takes on new experiences. The accumulation of verbs “flew”, “watched”, “heard” reflect her determination to collect new experiences that seemed imbued with history with the allusions to “Rome”, “Greece” and “the Acropolis”. However, with the conclusion of the poem the personas attitude to “new experiences” changes as the biting of an “apple” symbolises her new found knowledge and the realisation that: "Experience taught me/That nothing worth doing is worth doing/ For the sake of experience alone."

Answers could include:

- free verse pattern – no real rhythm
- structured into couples that do not rhyme at all.
- Truncated sentences
- Enjambment
- Alliteration - "Crumbling coast"
- Metaphor "I bit into an apple that tasted sweetly of time"
- Extended metaphor of experience as “burned out”, “ashy”, “smoking” and “smouldering”
- Accumulation of verbs: “flew”, “watched”, “heard”....
- Symbol of “apple” – knowledge, wisdom, temptation, sin
- Tone – reminiscent / reflective / eager / impatient / wise

Question 3 (3 marks)

Text 3 — Website

Explain how this text uses the features of a website to reinforce the importance of sharing stories.

Question 3

Criteria	Marks
• Explains effectively how this text uses the features of a website to reinforce the importance of sharing stories	3
• Explains how this text uses the features of a website to reinforce the importance of sharing stories	2
• Provides some relevant information about the text	1

Sample answer:

This website uses visual and written images to convey the importance of sharing multiple stories of human struggle and resilience. In sharing these stories we are able to foster a more compassionate and empathetic understanding of what it means to be human. The salient image of the photograph of the man in his bread shop, signifies the joy of helping others as a result of his own story of struggle that is revealed in his personal anecdote located beneath the photo. The website uses a variety of features such as a hyperlink menu: “stories – countries – series – share”; the opportunity to follow and share these stories on Facebook; and possibility to buy these stories in a book form. Through its accumulation of multiple stories and multiple ways to share in these stories the website is valuing the importance of storytelling as a way to building our capacity for empathy and compassion.

Answers could include:

- Title of the website: “Human of New York” – emphasises humanity in a large city
- Subtitle – “Refugee Stories” – implies – connotation of stories of hardship / struggle / resilience / courage / hope
- Hyperlink menu across the top – “stories – countries – series – share” – suggest an interactive reading experience – that the reader can participate in the story, read multiple stories from multiple places and share with others
- The title or quote of the article on the website “Everyday I drive the van to the port and hand out bread to the refugees”, highlights the experience of empathy and compassion and the supply of basic food for survival.
- The words: “October 2015: Kos, Greece” in contrast to “Humans of New York” indicates the universal nature of the human struggle
- The photograph of the man in his bread shop symbolises his joy/happiness to help those in need and represents his relative wealth in contrast to those who have nothing or very little.
- The website uses the brief anecdote to highlight the accumulation of difficult experiences for a refugee. The anecdote uses first person pronouns, short sentences, direct quotes.
- The website has hyperlinks to other stories – indicate the multiple stories of hardship
- Hyperlinks to Facebook
- Hyperlink to buy the book

Question 4 (5 marks)

Text 4 — Prose fiction extract

Analyse how the experience of childhood has been shaped by the writer.

Question 4

Criteria	Marks
• Analyses skilfully how the experience of childhood has been shaped by the writer using detailed, well-chosen supporting evidence	5
• Analyses how the experience of childhood has been shaped by the writer using detailed, appropriate supporting evidence	4
• Describes how the texts convey ideas about childhood with some supporting evidence	2–3
• Provides some relevant information about the text	1

Sample answer:

The extract from the novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll is reflective on the imaginative capacity of children and how the imagination can remove us or reshape our "dull reality". Carroll describes his protagonist as "little Alice" or "little sister" which positions her to a naïve or innocent child who has a "curious dream". The reader is invited into this curious dream through the perspective of Alice's sister. The narrative perspective is nostalgic in regard to Alice's childhood experience and perspective. This perspective seems to reshape the world as a "Wonderland" full of "Adventure". The extract use complex sentences, colon and hyphens build and accumulate extensive descriptions of "strange creatures" that contribute to the wondrous and adventurous perspective of the world. Extensive use of sensory imagery such as "the long grass rustled" and "the shriek of the Gryphon" add to blurring of the real world and the dream world imagined by the child. The use of the adverb, "lastly", as a temporal connective, indicates to the reader that the sister is reflective of the innocence of her "little sister" and speculates through the complex sentence how her experiences of childhood will endure with her into adulthood. The alliteration of "Simple sorrows" in contrast to "simple joys" indicates the restorative power of childhood memories.

Answers could include:

- Dialogue
- Exclamation - 'Oh, I've had such a curious dream!'
- Repetition of "dream" and "curious"
- Alice described as "little Alice" and "little sister"
- Contrast of Wonderland to "dull reality"
- Sensory imagery
- Complex sentences
- Accumulation of mythical/imaginative characters and their actions
- Precise use of adjectives and verbs
- Mood of dreamy nostalgia,
- Tone of nostalgia, reflective , sentimental
- Alliteration "simple sorrows"
- Use of colon
- Adverb: "lastly" and "First", as a temporal connective – builds the cohesion of the narrative structure

Question 5 (5 marks)

Text 1, 2,3, and 4 — All Texts

Choose TWO text and explain how they represent the unexpected nature of the human experience.

Question 5

Criteria	Marks
• Explains skilfully to what extent TWO texts reveal the power of introspection as an essential part of the human experience, including well-chosen supporting evidence from the texts	5
• Explains effectively to what extent TWO texts reveal the power of introspection as an essential part of the human experience, including supporting evidence from the texts	4
• Explains how TWO texts reveal the power of introspection as an essential part of the human experience, including some supporting evidence from the texts	2–3
• Demonstrates limited understanding of how the human experience is represented in texts	1

Answers could include:

Text 1:

- The book cover explores the unexpected effect of the decisions we make in our lives.
- Some choices we make can have unexpected tragic consequences that we need to navigate thorough, requiring courage and hope.
- The decisions we make can have unexpected consequences on other people
- Quotes / word choice / diction / superlatives / adjectives – “extraordinary”, “heartrending”, “tragic”, “moving”, “intensity and frailty”, “isolation and courage”, “enormous loss”
- Quotes from famous/acclaimed writers give value/meaning/weight to the story/meaning/emotional intensity – also foreshadow the plot of the emotional story
- Use of evaluative language
- Title – words symbolic – something in between suggests opportunity or hope
- Symbol of the lighthouse = searching, loss, guidance
- Colour/Atmosphere / Setting – night / starry evening / darkness of humanity / emotional darkness
- Symbol of the ocean = loss / vastness / impossibility
- Stars symbolise hope
- Boat symbolises – hope or abandonment

Text 2:

- The poem illustrates the point that we can set out in the pursuit of new experiences but what we gain as a result can be unexpected.
- The discarding old experiences or the accumulation of new experiences can have an unexpected effect.
- free verse pattern – no real rhythm
- structured into couples that do not rhyme at all.
- Truncated sentences
- Enjambment
- Alliteration - "Crumbling coast"
- Metaphor "I bit into an apple that tasted sweetly of time"
- Extended metaphor of experience as “burned out”, “ashy”, “smoking” and “smouldering”
- Accumulation of verbs: “flew”, “watched”, “heard”....
- Symbol of “apple” – knowledge, wisdom, temptation, sin
- Tone – reminiscent / reflective / eager / impatient / wise

Text 3:

- The website represents the unpredictable nature of our life’s journey and that sometimes we must face struggle and hardship
- In times of struggle it is the unexpected compassion and generosity of others that can help us get through.
- Title of the website: “Human of New York” – emphasises humanity in a large city
- Subtitle – “Refugee Stories” – implies – connotation of stories of hardship / struggle / resilience / courage / hope

- Hyperlink menu across the top – “stories – countries – series – share” – suggest an interactive reading experience – that the reader can participate in the story, read multiple stories from multiple places and share with others
- The title or quote of the article on the website “Everyday I drive the van to the port and hand out bread to the refugees”, highlights the experience of empathy and compassion and the supply of basic food for survival.
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- The photograph of the man in his bread shop symbolises his joy/happiness to help those in need and represents his relative wealth in contrast to those who have nothing or very little.
- The website uses the brief anecdote to highlight the accumulation of difficult experiences for a refugee. The anecdote uses first person pronouns, short sentences, direct quotes.
- The website has hyperlinks to other stories – indicate the multiple stories of hardship
- Hyperlinks to Facebook
- Hyperlink to buy the book

Text 4:

- The prose extract explores the unexpected consequences of our imaginative capability
- Dreams can provide us with unexpected ways of seeing the world with fresh eyes
- Memories of childhood can unexpectedly sustain us in adulthood.
- Dialogue
- Exclamation - ‘Oh, I’ve had such a curious dream!’
- Repetition of “dream” and “curious”
- Alice described as “little Alice” and “little sister”
- Contrast of Wonderland to “dull reality”
- Sensory imagery
- Complex sentences
- Accumulation of mythical/imaginative characters and their actions
- Precise use of adjectives and verbs
- Mood of dreamy nostalgia,
- Tone of nostalgia, reflective, sentimental
- Alliteration “simple sorrows”
- Use of colon
- Adverb: “lastly” and “First”, as a temporal connective – builds the cohesion of the narrative structure

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SAMPLE - HSC SIMULATED EXAM

Marking Criteria

English Standard

Essay

Section II - Essay

Question 1

The telling of stories invites us to view the experiences of others in a new light.
Explore this statement with close reference to your prescribed text.

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explores skilfully the extent to which <i>telling of stories invites us to view the experiences of others in a new light</i>● Presents an insightful response with detailed analysis supported by well-chosen textual references from the prescribed text● Writes a coherent and sustained response using language appropriate to audience, purpose and context	17–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explores effectively the extent to which <i>telling of stories invites us to view the experiences of others in a new light</i>● Presents a thoughtful response with analysis supported by well-chosen textual references from the prescribed text● Writes an organised response using language appropriate to audience, purpose and context	13–16
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explains the extent to which <i>telling of stories invites us to view the experiences of others in a new light</i>● Presents a response with some analysis using textual references from the prescribed text● Writes an adequate response using language appropriate to audience, purpose and context	9–12
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explains the extent to which the <i>telling of stories invites us to view the experiences of others in a new light</i>● Presents a response with some analysis using textual references from the prescribed text● Writes an adequate response using language appropriate to audience, purpose and context	5–8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Refers to prescribed text in an elementary way● Attempts to compose a response	1–4