Paper 2

What is Paper 2?

The Paper 2 exam consists of six essay questions, only one of which must be answered during the given time. The essay is to be written about the Part 3 literary texts. Therefore, it is a test of understanding literature in context. Although the questions will change from exam to exam, they will always focus on the connection between, style, form, author, purpose and audience.

The Basics

SL + HL: Answer 1 of 6 essay questions. SL and HL students receive exactly the same 6 questions.

SL: Essay must answer one question in relation to both literary texts that were studied for Part 3.

HL: Essay must answer one question in relation to two or three of the literary texts studied for Part 3.

SL: Has 1.5 hours to answer this essay question.

HL: Has 2 hours to answer this essay question.

SL + HL: Paper 2 grade counts for 25% of the final grade.

Sample Questions

The sample questions below represent the kinds of questions that could appear on the exam. They are inspired by the sample questions that appear in the Language A: Language and Literature guide.

1. Explain how the authors of at least two literary works have portrayed a social group in a particular way. How might the contexts of the authors have influenced their portrayal of these social groups?

2. It is often said that literature is a voice for social commentary. How is this true of at least two works that you have read?

3. To what extent can the meaning of a literary work change over time? How does this question apply to at least two works that you have read?

4. To what degree are readers influenced by their culture and context. Explain how at least two works could be read differently depending on the culture of their audience.

5. ‘Coming of age’ is a common theme in literary works. With regards to at least two literary works, explain how the author’s own youth influenced their portrayal of this
6. With regards to at least two literary works, explain how the setting both influences the characters and reflects the author's own context.

7. How are the characters from at least two literary works representational of people from the time and place in which they were written?

8. Why might two of your Part 3 works be considered 'timeless'?

9. With regards to two literary texts, explain why authors may have chosen to depict events in a particular sequence or order.

10. How do two literary works both reflect and challenge the spirit of the times in which they were written?

Criteria: Paper 2 (HL)

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<tr>
<th>Summary of Descriptors</th>
<th>Marks</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge and understanding</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>The essay demonstrates an understanding of the works and knowledge of the contexts in which they were written. The student shows how context affects interpretations of the texts.</td>
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| **Response to the question** | 5 |
| A Paper 2 essay should focus on the question chosen. The implications of the exam question need to be explored in depth, and the student's response must be relevant to it. |

| **Understanding of the use and effects of stylistic features** | 5 |
| In the Paper 2 exam, a connection needs to be made between the author's use of stylistic features and the effect of them on his or her audience. As Paper 2 questions invite students to explore how meaning is shaped by context, answers will have to explain why authors choose for a certain genre, narrative technique or structure. |

| **Organization and development** | 5 |
| The essay must develop an answer to the question coherently and effectively. Topic sentences should guide the ideas of paragraphs. Illustrations should be integrated well and explanations should shed light on the subject matter. |

| **Language** | 5 |
| The language of the Paper 2 exam should be effective and accurate. The choice of vocabulary and use of grammar should be consistent and appropriate. |

Total: 25
Paper 2: Outlines

There is no single correct way to write Paper 2. However there are several good ways to structure the essay. Before you begin to write your essay, take 10-15 minutes to outline the main ideas. This is a good idea for several reasons:

- We use outlines to prevent ‘after thoughts’ from creeping into the essay. Examiners find it difficult to read scripts that include, boxes, arrows and symbols that attempt to insert text that was written as an after thought. Once you see an overview of your ideas, you can move them around more easily.

- We use outlines to ensure that all the criteria are met, all works are explored equally and ideas appear in the logical order.

- A good outline can save you time for the reasons mentioned above.

The following handouts show three ways to structure your Paper 1 analysis:

1. the ‘comparative approach’,
2. the ‘criterion-by-criterion’ approach, and
3. the ‘work-by-work’ approach.

The outlines have been filled in to show how one exam question can be approached three different ways. The exam question (taken from the English A Specimen Papers on the OCC) is:

"Analyse how justice is represented and understood in at least two works studied."

In the sample outlines, this question has been answered with regards to Fiela’s Child by Dalene Mathee (1985) and The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (2003).