



GCE AS/A level

402/01

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE**

ELL2: Writing Task

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 14 May 2008

1³/₄ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all three parts** of the question: **(a)**, **(b)** and **(c)**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All three parts of the question carry equal marks.

In this unit you will be assessed primarily on your ability to:

- demonstrate expertise and accuracy in writing for a variety of specific purposes and audiences, drawing on knowledge of literary texts and features of language to explain and comment on the choices made.

You will also be assessed on your ability to:

- communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insights gained from combined literary and linguistic study, using appropriate terminology and accurate written expression;
- show understanding of the ways contextual variation and choices of form, style and vocabulary shape the meanings of texts.

Remember that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Complete all three tasks: (a), (b) and (c).

Read the texts on the following pages carefully, then **complete tasks (a), (b) and (c)**. In each case you should take care that the language and tone that you use are appropriate to the task. **Without copying from the texts provided**, you may select relevant facts and ideas to help you with your writing. You may also introduce facts and information of your own.

Text X is an edited page from the University of Ohio's website that gives advice to teenage parents.

Text Y is a page from an Australian website that gives advice to teenage parents.

Text Z is an edited diary article by a teenage parent support worker. It was published in *The Guardian* on November 26, 2006.

- (a) Imagine you are writing a play about a teenage parent. The play will be performed in your school or college as part of a programme of events exploring teenage life.

In play form, write **a scene from the play** that shows the teenage parent seeking advice about how to bring up her/his young child from a teenage parent support worker. The action takes place in a health centre. (Approximately 300 words).

- You must include detailed descriptions of the health centre and the action that takes place using stage directions.
- You may include other characters if you wish.

- (b) Write **an article** for a teenage magazine on the topic of teenage parenthood. (Approximately 300 words).

- You must provide an engaging heading for your article.
- You should present a clear point of view about your attitude towards teenage parents.
- You may invent details or use your own knowledge to help develop your point of view.

- (c) Choosing *either* your play script *or* your magazine article, **explain and comment** on your choices of style, form and content. Show clearly how the audience and purpose of your text have influenced your choice of language (approximately 300 words).

Text X: a page from Ohio State University’s Fact Sheet for teenage parents.

Topics for Teen Parents

Being a parent is one of the most important roles in your life. It is also one of the most challenging. Babies depend on parents to meet their needs. The way you care for your baby determines how he or she will develop as a child and as an adult. The topics for this fact sheet were selected by a group of teen parents.

Touch and Your Baby

Many of the simple things that you do with your baby are important. Babies need a lot of touching, holding, and cuddling during the first few months. Skin-to-skin contact tells the baby that he or she is protected, cared for, and loved. Babies enjoy the close physical contact they have with you. A baby can sense your mood by the way you touch him or her. Relax and enjoy interacting with your baby. Smile at him or her.

Your Baby’s Growth and Development

Each baby grows and develops in his or her own way. When you read what your child should be doing when he or she is a certain age, remember that these charts show averages and do not apply to any particular baby. Any growth and development chart will provide a way to assess your child’s development.

Your child may be doing something that is a month or two more advanced, or your child may be a month behind in a particular area. If you notice that your child is several months behind in any particular area, bring these delays to the attention of the baby’s doctor. The doctor can determine whether or not there is a problem and help you know what, if anything, should be done.

You and Your Child’s Self-Esteem

It is important to feel good about yourself and your new role as a parent. You are a unique person with unique qualities to bring to the parenting role.

How you feel about your role as a parent is up to you. Take a good look at yourself and learn to recognize your strengths, abilities, and talents. Be proud of who you are. Look at your accomplishments and build on them. Identify your weaknesses. Decide what you can do to turn them into strengths.

In your role as a teen parent, feel good about the love and care that you can give your baby. Help your child develop positive self-esteem. Here are some ways to help your child develop positive self-esteem:

- Treat your child with respect.
- Tell your child “I love you.”
- Accept your child unconditionally.
- Give your child some undivided attention.
- Give your child the freedom to try new things.
- Set realistic goals for your child.
- Guide your child into as many successful experiences as you can.
- Help your child develop a value system.
- Allow your child to make decisions.

Communication

Good communication between parents and children is important. It can make or break a relationship. In fact, communication is the single, most important factor in determining what kinds of relationships are made with others.

Reproduced from “Ohio State University Extension”

Turn over.

Text Y: a page from an Australian website that gives advice to teenage parents.

Teenage parents

Looking after your child

- Children need love and affection. Give your children lots of cuddles and tell them you love them many times a day.
- Children are eager to learn and need lots of things to do. When they are very young their parents are their best playmates. They like:
 - * to be danced with
 - * to be talked to
 - * to be read to
 - * to be sung to
 - * to be taken for walks
 - * you to lie on the floor and let them crawl over you
 - * you to play with them and their toys.
- Children need your time - they want you to be around them and to take notice of them. This might mean giving up things you want to do and it might mean making out you are interested in what they are doing, even when you don't feel like it. Your time and attention helps your child to feel loved.
- Young children need to be closely watched, especially near water (even nappy buckets).
- Children can get into all sorts of things when you are busy. It is important to make your house and outdoor area as safe as possible. Washing up detergents, laundry powders and medicines need to be kept in a high locked cupboard. See '**Home safety**'.

Looking after yourself

Children need you to look after them but you can't do this well if you don't look after yourself.

- One of the things you may find hard as a young parent is the loss of your friends who don't have children. Sometimes you feel that you don't have anything to talk about any more. By joining a young parents' group you will make new friends who have similar lives to yours. Here you can have fun, your children can play with other children and you can talk over the same problems you share with other young parents.
- It's okay to need your own space. Arrange for someone reliable to care for your child so you can have a night out, go shopping or do something special. All parents need a break.
- All parents have times when they get really busy and times when they get upset. Take a break, go outside, ring a friend or someone you trust and talk about it. Always make sure your child is safe first. Often being outside can make you feel less stressed so taking your baby for a walk around the block in the pram, or your toddler to the local playground can help.

Excerpt from Parent Easy Guide no. 39 with permission ©Parenting SA, Government of South Australia

Text Z: an edited diary article by a teenage pregnancy support worker.

Going back to work on Monday morning is never particularly pleasant; the thought of climbing five flights of stairs, stepping over rotten food, globules of spit, unidentifiable objects and the occasional semi-conscious crack user, doesn't fill me with joy. I wonder how Stacey manages this with two children ("Mummy, what's wrong with that man?"), a buggy and shopping.

As I reach her open door, panting, I am greeted by a very unhappy-looking Stacey; she's sweeping broken glass out on to the walkway. I guess there has been another fight, and that Stacey hasn't yet managed to get her children's father to leave - or to stop stealing her income support for the crack he has been addicted to since his release from prison.

She's 19, and feels that although he is wrong for her and their children, he is the best she can get, because who will want her now? Stacey is trapped and I feel helpless; I know my efforts to free her will constantly meet brick walls, and that she will continue to feel let down by everything and everyone, because the resources needed to make things different just aren't there. Stacey knows calling the police will not solve her problems. She is hoping he will go back "inside" soon; then she imagines she will be able to live in peace for a while, try to get on with her life, maybe even get a job.

I have been working with Stacey for two years; she's just been allocated this flat after two years of moving around temporary hostels. But there is no way of disguising the fact that this flat, this estate and many others that have been left to deteriorate are unacceptable for any family to be expected to live in.

As the weekend beckons, I am left emotionally drained and despairing. There are only a few years separating me from the young women I work with, yet our lives are far apart. But I feel fortunate - their capacity to remain positive, when all around them is falling apart, inspires me. It is so easy to get caught up in our own lives and forget there are people on our doorstep for whom every day is a struggle.

Beth Kelly 'Diary of a teenage pregnancy worker' The Guardian, November 26th 2005