



HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1999

ENGLISH

2 UNIT GENERAL

PAPER 1

**USES OF ENGLISH AND
TOPIC AREAS**

*Time allowed—Two hours
(Plus 10 minutes reading time)*

DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Attempt ALL questions.
- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Section I | Reading Task | Question 1 |
| Section II | Writing Task | Question 2 |
| Section III | Topic Areas | Question 3 |
- All questions are of equal value.
- Allow about 40 minutes for each question.
- Answer Questions 1 and 3 in SEPARATE Writing Booklets.
- You may ask for extra Writing Booklets if you need them.
- Answer Question 2 in the Question 2 Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION I—READING TASK

QUESTION 1 (20 marks)

Use a SEPARATE Writing Booklet.

Allow about 40 minutes for this question.

Read the following TWO passages, then answer the questions on page 3.

PASSAGE A: CAIRO

Cairo is a seething, breathing monster of a city that swallows new arrivals and consumes those who return. All are destined to be captured and captivated in some small way by its incredible past and vibrant present. There are few, if any, cities in the world where the clash between old and new, modern and traditional, and east and west is more evident. Tall, gleaming hotels and office buildings overlook streets where cars and buses rumble and weave past donkey carts and their stubborn drivers. Less than one kilometre from a computer store and supermarket in central Cairo there are mud-brick houses where goats still wander through 'living rooms' and water is obtained from taps down the street.

Cairo is still the heart of Egypt and is called the Mother of the World. Since its rise in the 9th century under Ibn Tulun, Egyptians have known Cairo as Al-Qahira, which means 'the victorious', and Misr (or Masr), which also means 'Egypt'. For Egyptians it is the centre of the country and has been attracting them in increasing numbers for centuries. No-one is sure how many people have been drawn in from the countryside, even over the past few years, but the city is bursting at the seams. Some 62 slums and squatter settlements such as Dar al-Salam and Sayyida Zeinab, are home to about five million people. And there are countless numbers of people living in the ancient cemeteries known as the Cities of the Dead. In total, Greater Cairo's population is estimated at between 18 and 22 million—roughly a quarter of Egypt's total.

The massive and continual increase in the number of people has overwhelmed the city. Housing shortages are rife; buses are packed to the hilt; snarled traffic paralyses life in the city; and broken pipes spew water and sewage into the streets. Everything is discoloured—buildings, buses and footpaths are brown and grey from smog and desert dust.

Wayne, Scott, Egypt & the Sudan: A Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit, Lonely Planet Publications, 1994.

QUESTION 1 (Continued)

Marks

PASSAGE B: SAN JOSÉ

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- | | | |
|-----|---|----------|
| (a) | What main point is the writer making about Cairo? Give THREE examples to support your answer. | 4 |
| (b) | What main point is the writer making about San José? Give THREE examples to support your answer. | 4 |
| (c) | Identify the intended audience in each passage. State what features of language help you identify each audience. | 4 |
| (d) | Compare the two passages. Discuss which one you think more effectively describes the city. Give your reasons. In your answer, you might refer to such features as imagery, word choice, tone, sentence structure, organisation and any other relevant techniques. | 8 |

SECTION II—WRITING TASK**QUESTION 2** (20 marks)

Answer this question in the Question 2 Answer Booklet provided.

Allow about 40 minutes for this question.

You have to make a speech on the topic, ‘Love is a laugh. Seriously.’

Write out your speech. (Remember you will need to make clear within your speech what audience you are addressing.)

Write at least 300 words.

SECTION III—TOPIC AREAS

QUESTION 3 (20 marks)

Use a SEPARATE Writing Booklet.

Allow about 40 minutes for this question.

The topic areas for 1999 are (a) Discovery and (b) Satire.

Answer ONE of the following questions.

EITHER

(a) **Discovery**

‘The process of discovery matters more than what is discovered.’

Do you agree? Argue your point of view, referring to ONE of the set texts and a variety of supplementary materials.

The texts set for study are listed below.

Isabel Allende, *Paula*

James Bradley, *Wrack*

Mark Baker, *The Fiftieth Gate*

Melina Marchetta, *Looking for Alibrandi*

Sally Morgan, *My Place*

OR

(b) **Satire**

‘In satire, the questioning of what we take for granted matters more than our enjoyment.’

Do you agree? Argue your point of view, referring to ONE of the set texts and a variety of supplementary materials.

The texts set for study are listed below.

Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*

Frontline: the story behind the story . . . behind the stories

Joseph Heller, *Catch 22*

George Orwell, *Animal Farm*

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*

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