

Riding the Black Cockatoo
Higher Tier

The purpose of this pack is to provide centres with the question paper, mark scheme and a set of exemplar materials with commentaries.

The individual documents can be found on our website at www.edexcel.com

Included in this pack:

- Question and extract from Summer 2012 Paper
- Marked scripts with the mark and band
- Examiner commentary and mark scheme

Riding the Black Cockatoo – Higher Tier

*18 Explore the significance of learning in the text.

You **must** consider the context of the text.

Use **evidence** to support your answer.

(Total for Question 18 = 40 marks)

Script 1

27 marks

AO1 – Band 3 – 10 marks

AO4 – Band 4 – 16 marks

In the autobiographical, non-fiction text, John Doolis explores the significance of learning through social, historical and cultural context.

Social context is a society's attitudes, this is evident throughout the text. The theme of education is present when Doolis 'So I enrolled at university as a mature-age student' this shows how important learning is in Australia or in Doolis's society. ^{This is} even as a 'mature-age' ^{student} he still decides he needs to go to school to learn something. In Doolis's society it is considered important to have an education as 'I was to everyone's great relief - soon to become a teacher.' This shows how important in society education is considered to be. The path of becoming a teacher creates new experiences that I needed to be learnt. 'I knew that I had to learn about Aboriginal culture and history - after all, I was studying to become a teacher.' This shows that from just wanting to be able to teach Doolis had to learn about other cultures showing how significant learning is. ~~The fear of being~~ The insecurity of being 'a mature-age student' caused Doolis to embellish the idea of 'I was generally punctual and studious' to create a good impression so that he could finish his education to become a teacher.

Historical context is the past, this is evident throughout the text. The significance of learning is shown when 'I can't recall the first time I saw - I mean, consciously recognised - an Aboriginal person.' This shows that as you grow up you begin to learn about different things taught to you through your environment and people around. The way you learn about something can influence how you perceive things. This is shown 'I was taught that it was acceptable to marvel at the Aborigine in his natural setting'. This shows that Dorril's learning of the Aborigines was being strange and very different to the norm of his society. The racial views that Dorril learnt as a child shows how significant learning is as they stayed with him till he became an adult 'Black was black, and even in a suit or a doublet gown, I was warned, a pear chucker lurked just below the surface.' This shows how significant what you learn as a child is as it stays with you up till old age.

Cultural context is the traditions and beliefs of a society, this is evident throughout the text. The learning of the Aboriginal culture helped Dorril create a personal relationship with Gary 'Before the roll, I'd been reading about the importance of Indigenous people place on totems, so I asked Gary what the Wambo Wambo totem was.' This shows how Dorril learnt to look past his stereotypical views as a child and now showed genuine interest in the Aboriginal culture. The encounter with the black cockatoo the other day on Dorril's bike did help him to correct and understand why 'Our totem's the black cockatoo, the one with red tail

feathers.' This shows how learning can
 create an understanding and develop a
 relationship between individuals.
 Exploring its significance. The learning
 of how the Aborigine took him. He was
 just watching over you, to make
 everything okay; created an understanding
 between the significance of the black and white.

Examiner summary:

The candidate shows both a thorough understanding of the theme of learning in the text and an assured understanding of the context; this understanding is evidenced by the selection of relevant textual reference.

Band this response achieves in the mark schemes:

AO1

3	8-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustained responses to text supported by relevant textual reference. Selection and evaluation of textual detail show thorough understanding of theme/ideas.
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AO4

4	16-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pertinent reference to context supported by relevant textual reference. Explanation of importance of theme/idea shows assured understanding. <p>*Sentences are purposefully structured, with assured control of expression and meaning with assured control of the full range of punctuation devices. Spelling is almost always accurate, with minimal errors.</p>
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To move up to the next bands: This response needs to develop the points about learning in the text and support these points with evidence from the text. The response to the context of the novel needs to show a more perceptive understanding.