

General Certificate of Secondary Education  
June 2008



**ENGLISH (SPECIFICATION B)**  
**Paper 2**  
**Higher Tier**

**3701/2H**  
**H**

Thursday 5 June 2008 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book
- Section B of the pre-release booklet (enclosed).

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is 3701/2H.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Write your answers in the answer book provided.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must refer to Section B of the pre-release booklet provided.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 54.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your Reading in Section A.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your Writing in Section B.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on Section A and about 45 minutes on Section B.

---

**SECTION A: READING****POETRY FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES AND TRADITIONS**

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

---

You will be assessed on the quality of your Reading. You are reminded to comment on the cultural aspects of the poems.

- 1 Read the poem ‘The *Ascania* Docks in Southampton, circa 1955’ opposite, which was written by the Jamaican poet, Marcia Douglas. Then remind yourself of the poem ‘Wedding in the Flood,’ on page 17 of the pre-release booklet.

Write about the poems:

- explaining what is being described in ‘The *Ascania* Docks in Southampton, circa 1955’
  - analysing some of the language and imagery in ‘The *Ascania* Docks in Southampton, circa 1955’
  - comparing the themes in ‘The *Ascania* Docks in Southampton, circa 1955’ with the themes in ‘Wedding in the Flood’.
- (27 marks)

---

**The *Ascania* Docks in Southampton, circa 1955**

All that's left now is a black and white photo from an old Daily Mirror.  
One thousand West Indian immigrants on board the *Ascania* –  
mostly men in felt hats.  
Flooding the decks, they lean over the rails,  
their shoulders pressed together.  
On the far left is someone's Uncle Morris.  
He has left behind  
a girl with a pretty black mole on her upper lip;  
the dream in his eyes shines like her lighted window far away.  
Wearing new shoes and a relative's old wedding suit,  
the young man behind him searches the dock for the Queen.  
Certainly, she will come to greet him,  
her gloved hand waving like the white wing of a dove.  
Short men. Tall men. Husky men. Frail men.  
Men with five pounds in their pockets  
and a cardboard suitcase with a broken latch.  
'Come to the Mother Country.  
The Mother Country needs you.'  
The cry crossed the Atlantic.  
Brave men. They packed their bags,  
their ancestors' fear of ships already strained from their blood,  
the Atlantic spread before them like a banquet table.  
Now on the upper deck, the fifth person from the right –  
a man smiles, rubbing his chin.  
Union jacks are stuffed in the bags beneath his eyes.  
Later, he will take a train to Victoria Station.  
In the cold and the rain, there will be no one to meet him.  
He will work in an asbestos plant,  
rent a flat with a mattress  
and a clothes line strung from one corner to the other.  
He will dream of children playing on warm rocks.

MARCIA DOUGLAS

**Turn over for the next question****Turn over ►**

---

**SECTION B : WRITING TO ANALYSE, REVIEW, COMMENT**

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

---

You will be assessed on the quality of your Writing.

- 2** A major change in the people, places and circumstances of a person's life can be exciting and daunting, fulfilling and disappointing.

Write an article which analyses this view.

*(27 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Question 1 Source: MARCIA DOUGLAS, 'The Ascania Docks in Southampton, Circa 1955', The Oxford Book of Caribbean Verse 2005  
Copyright © 2008 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.