

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate Number: _____



**Australian International School Hong Kong
2008**

**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
MOCK EXAMINATION**

**YEAR 12
SEMESTER 2**

**ENGLISH A2
STANDARD LEVEL PAPER 2
AUGUST 2008**

**Reading Time: 5 Minutes
Working Time: 1 Hour 30 Minutes**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer **ONE** question.

Write an essay on *one* of the following. You must base your answer on the cultural options or literary options you have studied in class. References to other subjects or literary works are permissible but should not form the main body of your answer.

Language and culture

1. *Either*

- (a) “Without any doubt English is the most important language in the world, and it is not hard to find impressive statistics to prove it” – Bill Bryson. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

or

- (b) “The advantages of bilingualism are far greater than the disadvantages.” Evaluate this statement with reference to your study of language and culture.

Media and culture

2. *Either*

- (a) Consider the idea that the mass media present an authentic reflection of society. In your answer include examples from your study of this option.

or

- (b) “While electronic and print media use sensationalism, stereotypes and propaganda to influence *most* people, they most certainly do not put pressure on *me*.” To what extent are we able to separate ourselves from the power of mass media? In your answer include examples from your study of this option.

Future issues

3. “I did not say the future could be foretold but I said that its conditions could be foretold” – H.G. Wells. Some current scientific and technological developments have uncertain consequences for humanity. In your opinion, which developments give cause for the greatest concern in the future and why?

Global issues

4. How has your study of global issues given you a greater understanding of the problems experienced by people around the world? What could be done to solve these problems?

Social issues

5. What are the main causes of social instability? Explain your choices with reference to your study of this option.

Literary questions

6. *Either*

- (a) Which themes in the literary works you have studied did you find most relevant to today's world, and why? Refer to your study of at least two literary works.

or

- (b) "Passion ruins lives." Consider this statement with reference to at least two literary works you have studied.

or

- (c) Discuss the role and importance of setting based on at least two literary works you have studied.
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