



L-Università  
ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL  
2020 MAIN SESSION**

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SUBJECT:	<b>English Literature</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

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Answer **BOTH** sections.

Candidates are reminded that:

- it is **not** necessary to repeat the words of the question in the answer.
- as far as possible, answers should be limited to the lines provided.

<b>Section A</b>	<b>Section B</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

**SECTION A**

Read the following poem carefully and then answer the questions that follow:

**Ode to Teachers**

I remember  
the first day,  
how I looked down,  
hoping you wouldn't see  
5 me,  
and when I glanced up,  
I saw your smile  
shining like a soft light  
from deep inside you.

10 "I'm listening," you encourage us.  
"Come on!  
Join our conversation,  
let us hear your neon certainties,  
thorny doubts, tangled angers,"  
15 but for weeks I hid inside.

I read and reread your notes  
praising  
my writing,  
and you whispered,  
20 "We need you  
and your stories  
and questions  
that like a fresh path  
will take us to new vistas."

25 Slowly, your faith grew  
into my courage  
and for you—  
instead of handing you  
a note or apple or flowers—  
30 I raised my hand.

I carry your smile  
and faith inside like I carry  
my dog's face,  
my sister's laugh,  
35 creamy melodies,  
the softness of sunrise,  
steady blessings of stars,  
autumn smell of gingerbread,  
the security of a sweater on a chilly day.

*Pat Mora*

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

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1. Underline the correct answer.  
The speaker in Ode to Teachers is:
- a. Making fun of a teacher.
  - b. Praising and glorifying a teacher.
  - c. Complaining about a teacher. (1)

2. a) Name the following figure of speech (lines 7–8).  
“... your smile  
Shining like a soft light”  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

- b) Explain its effectiveness in this context.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

3. Pat Mora uses direct speech in stanzas 2 and 3. Comment on **TWO** effects of the use of this device in the stanzas.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

4. a) In the first stanza, the word ‘me’ (line 5) has been placed on a separate line. Provide **ONE** reason why this has been done.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

- b) Quote a line from the poem which conveys the same meaning.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

5. The pronouns ‘you’ and ‘I’ are used interchangeably to refer to both speakers. Mention **TWO** effects of this repeated use of pronouns.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

6. Mention **TWO** characteristics that indicate this is a modern poem.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

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7. One of the themes in the poem is power. Explain **TWO** types of power this poem is concerned with.

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(2)

8. In the last stanza a number of comparisons are made. Choose **TWO** of these comparisons and:  
a) Identify the type of images used.  
b) Comment on the effectiveness of these comparisons in bringing across the speaker's feelings on seeing the other person smile.

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(4)

9. With close reference to the devices used, comment on the change which occurs in the poem.

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(6)

**(Total: 25 marks)**

**SECTION B**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Walt has loved her forever, for nearly as long as he's been alive. He was four years old the first time he saw her. It's his earliest memory. A simple, ordinary day, made special and extraordinary by first love and first words.

5 Walt's father had been shopping with his son on a Sunday afternoon when he'd wandered into All Saints' Passage\* and found the bookshop. A silent boy, Walt still hadn't spoken, so there was no reason to think he'd be interested in reading yet. But when Walt sneaked through the door, under his father's arm, he let out a gasp of delight.

He had stepped into a kingdom: an oak labyrinth of bookshelves, corridors and canyons of literature beckoning him, whispering enchanting words Walt had never heard before.

10 The air was smoky with the scent of leather, ink and paper, caramel-rich and citrus-sharp. Walt stuck out his small tongue to taste this new flavour and grinned, sticky with excitement. And he knew, all of a sudden and deep in his soul, that this was a place he belonged more than any other.

Hours later, staggering along the passage with armfuls of books, Walt had glanced up at another shop window to see two bright green eyes and a mop of blonde curls peeking out under a beaded hem. The eyes blinked as he stared and the sad little mouth opened slightly. Walt stopped.

15 'Come on, Wally,' his father had called, 'we're late for dinner.'

He'd said this as though there was someone at home cooking it for them, a wife and mother who anxiously expected them. He always spoke this way, as though denying his wife's death could bring her back, if only momentarily.

20 'But Daddy,' Walt protested, 'I want see the girl.'

His father had dropped the books then, pages fluttering to his feet. Tears filled his eyes and fell down his cheeks. Four years of silence, of doctors, specialists and speech therapy. Four years of nothing and now a whole sentence, in an instant. It was a miracle. 'What girl, son?' The question was a whisper on his lips. Walt turned back to the window, ready to point, but the girl had gone.

25 There are people who like to connect, to make eye contact and smile. Walt is not one of them. At school he learnt to make himself invisible, to watch people without being seen. And so he watched Cora growing up: staring out of the shop window while raindrops slid down the glass, wandering along counting paving stones, flower petals, leaves of ivy and anything else that inhabited All Saints' Passage, sneaking into the bookshop to read while entire afternoons slipped out of sight. He watched, biding his time before he finally found the courage to speak with her. And, even then, when they formed a tentative friendship in the years that followed, he was never able to look Cora in the eye and tell her how he felt.

35 When Walt turned sixteen, with enormous relief, he abandoned school to fulfil his second greatest wish (his first being the wish for Cora) and work in the bookshop full-time. When Walt turned twenty his father died, finally succumbing to the broken heart he'd been nursing for two decades. With the inheritance Walt bought his beloved bookshop along with the flat above it, and as soon as he moved in he stayed. He's there for twelve hours a day, every day, even though the shop is only open for eight. But he loves the empty hours best of all, 40 when he can walk along the aisles and bask in the warmth of the books, their glittering gold letters, their stories softly pulsing between pages just waiting to be opened and read and loved.

*\*Passage: a long narrow way that connects one place to another*

*Adapted from: The Dress Shop of Dreams, van Praag, Menna. Kindle edition.*

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

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1. Underline the correct answer.

The story is being told by:

a. a first-person narrator.

b. a second-person narrator.

c. a third-person narrator.

(1)

2. When he entered the bookshop for the first time, Walt felt "... that this was a place he belonged more than any other." (line 12) How does the author convey the boy's first experience in the bookshop?

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(4)

3. Limiting your answer to Lines 20 to 25, identify **TWO** devices used by the author to show the intensity of the moment.

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(2)

4. What is the effect of the rather long sentence in lines 27 to 31?

*And so he watched Cora growing up: staring out of the shop window while raindrops slid down the glass, wandering along counting paving stones, flower petals, leaves of ivy and anything else that inhabited All Saints' Passage, sneaking into the bookshop to read while entire afternoons slipped out of sight.*

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(2)

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

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5. There seems to be parallelism between Walt and Cora and the father and the wife. Explain this parallelism.

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(2)

6. At the end of the passage the author places Walt in a bookshop. With reference to Walt's character, suggest **TWO** reasons why this is an ideal fit.

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(2)

7. a) Limiting your answer to the quote below (lines 34–37), what impression are readers meant to have of Walt's late teens?

*When Walt turned sixteen, with enormous relief, he abandoned school to fulfil his second greatest wish (his first being the wish for Cora) and work in the bookshop full-time. When Walt turned twenty his father died, finally succumbing to the broken heart he'd been nursing for two decades.*

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(2)

b) Identify **ONE** literary device the author uses to convey this impression.

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(1)

***This section continues on next page.***

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

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8. Limiting your answer to the last sentence (lines 39-41), explain how the author shows the protagonist’s love for books.

*But he loves the empty hours best of all, when he can walk along the aisles and bask in the warmth of the books, their glittering gold letters, their stories softly pulsing between pages just waiting to be opened and read and loved.*

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(3)

9. The passage makes various references to time. Grounding your answer in the passage, write about the repeated mention of time.

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(6)

**(Total: 25 marks)**






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SUBJECT:	<b>English Literature</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	IIA
DATE:	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

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Answer **ONE** question from **EACH SECTION**. Each section carries equal marks.

**SECTION A: DRAMA**

Answer **ONE** question only on **ONE** text.

***Twelfth Night*, W. Shakespeare**

1. **CURIO**

Will you go hunt, my Lord?

**DUKE ORSINO**

What, Curio?

**CURIO**

The hart.

**DUKE ORSINO**

Why? So do I, the noblest that I have:  
O, when mine eyes did see Olivia first,  
Methought she purged the air of pestilence!  
That instant was I turn'd into a hart;  
And my desires, like fell and cruel hounds,  
E'er since pursue me.

*Enter VALENTINE*

How now! what news from her?

**VALENTINE**

So please my lord, I might not be admitted;  
But from handmaid do return this answer:  
The element itself, till seven years' heat,  
Shall not behold her face at ample view;  
But, like a cloistress, she will veiled walk  
And water once a day her chamber round  
With eye-offending brine; all this to season  
A brother's dead love, which she would keep fresh  
And lasting in her sad remembrance.

- a. Discuss the immediate circumstances in which these words are spoken. (4)
- b. Explore Count Orsino's idea of romantic love as presented in *Twelfth Night*. (6)
- c. Discuss other forms of love found in the play. (7)

**OR**

2. A number of characters in *Twelfth Night* are not born great, but achieve greatness by the end of the play. Discuss with relation to **TWO** characters in the play.

**OR**

3. Discuss the themes of cowardice **AND** bravery in relation to Sir Andrew Aguecheek and another character of your choice in *Twelfth Night*.

**OR**

***The Merchant of Venice, W. Shakespeare***

4. **BASSANIO**

O sweet Portia,  
Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words  
That ever blotted paper! Gentle lady,  
When I did first impart my love to you,  
I freely told you, all the wealth I had  
Ran in my veins, I was a gentleman;  
And then I told you true: and yet, dear lady,  
Rating myself at nothing, you shall see  
How much I was a braggart. When I told you  
My state was nothing, I should then have told you  
That I was worse than nothing; for, indeed,  
I have engaged myself to a dear friend,  
Engaged my friend to his mere enemy,  
To feed my means. Here is a letter, lady;  
The paper as the body of my friend,  
And every word in it a gaping wound,  
Issuing life-blood. But is it true, Salerio?  
Have all his ventures fail'd? What, not one hit?  
From Tripolis, from Mexico and England,  
From Lisbon, Barbary and India?  
And not one vessel 'scape the dreadful touch  
Of merchant-marring rocks?

- a. Discuss the immediate circumstances in which these words are spoken. (4)  
b. Explain Portia's solution to Bassanio's problem presented in this speech. (6)  
c. Explore the theme of deception in *The Merchant of Venice*. (7)

**OR**

5. Certain characters treat others unfairly in *The Merchant of Venice*. Discuss with reference to **ONE** male and **ONE** female character in the play.

**OR**

6. Discuss how, at the end of *The Merchant of Venice*, the audience feels that justice is served but mercy is still missing. Discuss.

**OR**

**Macbeth, W. Shakespeare**

7. **MACBETH**

We will proceed no further in this business.  
He hath honoured me of late, and I have bought  
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,  
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,  
Not cast aside so soon.

**LADY MACBETH**

Was the hope drunk  
Wherein you dressed yourself? Hath it slept since?  
And wakes it now to look so green and pale  
At what it did so freely? From this time,  
Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard  
To be the same in thine own act and valour  
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that  
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,  
And live a coward in thine own esteem,  
Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would',  
Like the poor cat i'th'adage?

**MACBETH**

Prithee, peace.  
I dare do all that may become a man;  
Who dares do more is none.

- a. Describe the immediate circumstances in which these lines are spoken. (4)
- b. Explain the character of Duncan as he comes across in *Macbeth*. (6)
- c. Ambition is what leads to Macbeth's downfall. Discuss. (7)

**OR**

- 8. Discuss how the confusion in the play *Macbeth* is reflected in the atmosphere and setting of the play.

**OR**

- 9. Discuss how and why **TWO** characters in *Macbeth* hide their true intentions.

**OR**

**A View from the Bridge, A. Miller**

- 10. Law and justice are two dominant themes in *A View from the Bridge*. Discuss with close reference to the play.

**OR**

**Please turn the page.**

11. Family life and its breakdown is the key to what happens in *A View from the Bridge*. Discuss.

**OR**

12. Catherine is not to blame for the way Eddie feels about her. Discuss with close reference to *A View from the Bridge*.

**OR**

***Dear Nobody*, B. Doherty, *The Play of Kes*, B. Hines and A. Stronach and *Fast*, David Grant**

13. Discuss the theme of fatherhood in *Dear Nobody*.

**OR**

14. The killing of Kes by Jud has a lasting effect on Billy. Discuss with reference to *The Play of Kes*.

**OR**

15. Discuss the positive and negative sides of fame and celebrity, as portrayed in the play *Fast*.

**OR**

16. Explore the similarities and differences in the endings of *The Play of Kes* and *Dear Nobody*.

**OR**

17. Discuss the role played by the protagonists' families in *The Play of Kes* and *Fast*.

**AND**

## **SECTION B: POETRY**

**Answer ONE question only.**

### ***The New Dragon Book of Verse***

1. Write about the way the poets convey the feeling of pride experienced by the speakers in the poems 'The Soldier' and 'The Lesson'.

**OR**

2. Discuss the way the poets of 'Ozymandias' and 'Sonnet LX' convey the effects of the passage of time.

**OR**

3. Discuss the way poets explore the powerful effect that nature has on the speakers in **TWO** poems of your choice.

**AND**

**SECTION C: PROSE**

**Answer ONE question only on ONE text.**

***Frankenstein, M. Shelley***

1. Discuss the similarities and differences between Robert Walton and Victor Frankenstein.

**OR**

2. The relationship between Frankenstein and the creature is similar to that between a father and a son. Discuss with reference to the novel.

**OR**

3. Discuss **TWO** different forms of betrayal in *Frankenstein*.

**OR**

***The Great Automatic Grammatizator and Other Stories, R. Dahl***

4. In some of his stories Dahl uses humour to cover the pain characters may be experiencing. Discuss with reference to *Neck* and *The Way up to Heaven*.

**OR**

5. Discuss the theme of betrayal and revenge in any of the **TWO** short stories in the collection of *The Great Automatic Grammmatizator*.

**OR**

6. In *Katina* and *The Landlady*, the female characters are linked to death in different ways. Write an essay showing how their experience is connected to the idea of death.

**OR**

***Animal Farm, G. Orwell***

7. In winning over Mr Jones, the animals believe that they have earned freedom, equality and got rid of corruption. In reality they have changed from one form of control and corruption to another. Discuss.

**OR**

8. With particular reference to Old Major's thoughts, the seven Commandments and the eventual transformation of the Commandments, write an essay on the breakdown of animalism in *Animal Farm*.

**OR**

***Please turn the page.***

9. Part of the tragedy in *Animal Farm* is that most of the farmyard animals are trusting, passive and hardworking. Discuss.

**OR**

***The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, J. Boyne***

10. When Bruno leads Gretel to look out of the window from his room, they see that "about twenty feet beyond the garden behind the home an intimidating wire fence provides a line past which no greenery or pleasantness exists." How do the **TWO** children react while they are looking at the area beyond the garden and later in the novel?

**OR**

11. With close reference to any **TWO** characters in the story, show how the power of Nazism conditioned people's lives and behaviour.

**OR**

12. In what way does the account from Bruno's perspective help readers understand *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*?

**OR**

***Private Peaceful, M. Morpurgo***

13. Tommo's ideas about faith and religion change throughout the novel *Private Peaceful*. Discuss.

**OR**

14. Explain how, even though Big Joe may not express himself well, is illiterate and does not think like the other children, he plays an important role in the novel.

**OR**

15. The nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons" mentioning churches and church bells, fruits, a candle to light you to bed and a chopper to chop off your head, appears a number of times in *Private Peaceful*. Write about the importance of this nursery rhyme in the story.

**OR**

***The Other Side of Truth, B. Naidoo***

16. Mention of the refugee crisis is normal in today's news. With close reference to *The Other Side of Truth*, write about some of the difficulties Sade and Femi face which you believe would also be true of all refugees.

**OR**

17. Drawing on her own experience as a refugee, Beverley Naidoo explains that memory is an important theme in the novel *The Other Side of Truth*. Discuss.

**OR**

18. Beverley Naidoo says that in *The Other Side of Truth*, she writes about the difference between what the child expects and what happens. By referring closely to the novel, write about **TWO** incidents where the child's expectations are different from what actually happens.




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SUBJECT:	<b>English Literature</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB
DATE:	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

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Answer **ONE** question from **EACH SECTION**. Each section carries equal marks.

**SECTION A: DRAMA**

Answer **ONE** question only on **ONE** text.

***Twelfth Night*, W. Shakespeare**

1. Discuss how Shakespeare uses disguise to create humorous confusion in *Twelfth Night*.

**OR**

2. Write about the characters of Viola/Cesario and Malvolio and their behaviour as servants in *Twelfth Night*.

**OR**

3. Choose **ONE** scene that you liked and **ANOTHER** you disliked in *Twelfth Night* and write about **BOTH** of them. Explain the reasons for your choice.

**OR**

***The Merchant of Venice*, W. Shakespeare**

4. Write about **ONE** comic scene and **ONE** tragic scene in *The Merchant of Venice*.

**OR**

5. Choose any **TWO** suitors in *The Merchant of Venice* and write about their characters.

**OR**

6. Choose **TWO** of the following types of relationships found in *The Merchant of Venice* and write about the way they are presented in the play:

- i. Friendship
- ii. Romantic love
- iii. Parent-child.

**OR**

***Macbeth*, W. Shakespeare**

7. Write about the importance of Lady Macbeth's sleepwalking scene in *Macbeth*.

**OR**

8. Write about the **THREE** apparitions that Macbeth is shown by the witches and write about their meaning in *Macbeth*.

**OR**



9. Write about **ONE** scene where Macbeth is seen as strong and **ONE** scene where his weakness comes through. Write about **BOTH** scenes with close reference to the play.

**OR**

***A View from the Bridge, A. Miller***

10. Write about the theme of obsession as it is developed in *A View from the Bridge*.

**OR**

11. Explore the relationship between Beatrice and Catherine in *A View from the Bridge*.

**OR**

12. Write about **TWO** scenes that show tension between characters in *A View from the Bridge*.

**OR**

***Dear Nobody, B. Doherty* and *The Play of Kes, B. Hines* and *A. Stronach, Fast, David Grant***

13. Compare and contrast the characters of Chris and his father as they appear in the play *Dear Nobody*.

**OR**

14. Explore the different qualities of Billy and his brother Jud in *The Play of Kes*.

**OR**

15. Bev and Barb feature in almost all the scenes in David Grant's play *Fast*. Explore the possible reasons why the canteen staff has been given so much importance while other adults have been left out.

**OR**

16. Choose **ONE** scene from *Dear Nobody* and **ONE** scene from *The Play of Kes* and write about the positive **and/or** negative influence that adults have on the teenage protagonists of the **TWO** plays.

**OR**

17. The protagonists in *The Play of Kes* and *Fast* go through a journey from innocence to understanding. Choose **ONE** protagonist from **EACH** play and write about the events which lead to this change.

**AND**

**SECTION B: POETRY**

**Answer ONE question only.**

***The New Dragon Book of Verse***

1. Write about the way poets portray animals either as incredible creatures or as victims in **TWO** poems of your choice.

**OR**

2. Explore the pain experienced by the speakers in the poems 'Dulce et Decorum est' and 'My Parents Kept me from Children who were Rough'.

**OR**

3. A relatively calm atmosphere can be easily transformed into a chaotic one. Discuss this statement by referring to **TWO** poems you have studied.

**AND**

### **SECTION C: PROSE**

**Answer ONE question only on ONE text.**

#### ***Frankenstein, M. Shelley***

1. Discuss the way in which, as the novel progresses, Victor Frankenstein and his creature become increasingly alike.

**OR**

2. Explore the different types of loss in *Frankenstein*.

**OR**

3. Explore how appearances are presented as more important than anything else in the novel *Frankenstein*.

**OR**

#### ***The Great Automatic Grammatizator and Other Stories, R. Dahl***

4. Some characters in Dahl's stories are ready to lie and cheat if they want something badly. Write about this with reference to any **TWO** characters.

**OR**

5. The strange little South American in *Man from the South* and Pratt in *Taste* are involved in a bet that ultimately does not go their way. Explain the nature of the **TWO** bets and why the South American and Pratt do not succeed in getting what they want.

**OR**

6. *Parson's Pleasure* and *The Great Automatic Grammatizator* are stories where characters devise schemes to make money easily. Explain the idea behind the **TWO** schemes and their effectiveness.

**OR**

#### ***Animal Farm, G. Orwell***

7. Orwell's *Animal Farm* is not just about Stalinist Russia. Write an essay, highlighting elements in the novel that show that it is relevant to human society everywhere and at all times.

**OR**

8. The three main pigs in *Animal Farm* are Napoleon, Snowball and Squealer. With close reference to the novel, write about each of the **THREE** characters.

**OR**

9. Part of the tension in *Animal Farm* is caused by the various forms of conflict in the novel. Explore the types of conflict in the novel.

**OR**

***The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, J. Boyne***

10. Limiting your answer to the incidents immediately surrounding the rope swing incident, describe the interactions between Bruno, Lieutenant Kotler and Pavel.

**OR**

11. Write about the theme of innocence in *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*.

**OR**

12. After not having met for a week, Bruno sees Schmuel again at the fence. Schmuel's face is covered in bruises but he says that it does not hurt. Bruno still apologises. Write about the event that leads to this moment in the story.

**OR**

***Private Peaceful, M. Morpurgo***

13. Write about **TWO** incidents which show The Colonel exercising his power over the Peaceful family.

**OR**

14. With close reference to the novel, write an essay explaining how **TWO** characters deal with loss.

**OR**

15. Contrast the protectiveness of Mrs Peaceful towards her children with the cruelty demonstrated by Grandma Wolf.

**OR**

***The Other Side of Truth, B. Naidoo***

16. Unfortunately, human nature is such that some individuals are unable to show empathy even for children who are in difficulty. Write about **TWO** characters in *The Other Side of Truth* who do not really change their ways because of Sade's situation.

**OR**

17. Write an essay showing how, in different ways, Nigeria and England betray Sade and her brother.

**OR**

18. In England, where she hopes for a better future, the past never leaves Sade's mind. Write an essay focusing on **THREE** things from the past that Sade refuses to let go of.