Sydney Boys High School

EnglishExtension1 2021 Trial Exam 30th August 2021 9 – 10:10am

Online Edition: Only do Section One

See notification provided for Section Two, due 30th August 2021 15:00

General Instructions

• Reading time – 10 minutes

• Working time – 1 hour

Total marks – 50

SECTION ONE- 25 marks.

Common Module: Literary Worlds

- Attempt question 1.
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

SECTION TWO -25 marks.

Elective Module: Literary Homelands

- Attempt question 2.
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

Section One: Common Module------Literary Worlds

25 marks
Attempt Question 1
Allow about 1 hour for this question

In your answers you will be assessed on your ability to:

- compose a piece of imaginative writing drawing on the ideas and practises from Literary Worlds
- demonstrate control of language with accuracy and fluency
- make and evaluate language choices in response to the stimulus

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Creative and reflection response (25 marks)

Read the following excerpt, then answer the questions that follow.

[Excerpt from the novel *Hex* by Rebecca Dinerstein Knight]

In ancient Greek, pharmakon meant poison and cure and scapegoat. It also meant potion and spell and charm. It could mean artificial colour or dye, even paint. It came from roots that meant 'cut' and 'throat'. The pharmakon doesn't change its name whether it's noxious or healing, whether it destroys or repairs. We assign human value to those results. Go ahead and employ a drug either in measure toward health, or in excess toward oblivion. Pharmakon has no intention. It co-operates.

Pharmacose meant a person sacrificed to atone for a city. If a sacrifice wasn't killed outright, she was exiled. Once she left town, the town considered itself pure again. Thoth, Egyptian god of writing, called writing a pharmakon, and he meant a remedy. Writing will help us remember. Plato called writing a 'pharmakon', and he meant a poison. Writing will replace our memories and ruin our minds. Derrida called writing a pharmakon, and he meant an ambivalence. Writing is a tool that must be used. How it is used is not writing's fault or business.

(a) Creative Writing

The author's novel *Hex* relies partly on the metaphorical premise that plants can be either benign or toxic, depending on the application of their properties. In the excerpt shown, the author demonstrates how the Greek term pharmakon became metaphorically interchangeable with the act and intention of writing.

Consider all the definitions, qualities and uses of writing in this excerpt.
Choose at least one to inform this task.

Write an imaginative passage in which a character's new insight or attitude is represented by writing that reflects your chosen definition, use or quality.

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(b) Reflection Writing

Reflect on how your chosen definition, quality or use of writing from the excerpt influenced your creative choices for part (a). /10

Section Two Elective: Literary Homelands

25 marks
Attempt Question 2
Allow about 1 hour for this question

In your response you will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate understanding of the ideas and values in literary homelands and how they are shaped and reflected in the prescribed and related texts.
- craft a sustained composition appropriate to the question, demonstrating control of the use of language.

Essay Question:

"It's as though I can never leave." Eileen Chong, 'Singapore'

Memory remains a powerful anchor for those whose homeland becomes unreachable.

Explore the ideas associated with this statement through detailed reference to the selected poetry of Eileen Chong from *Burning Rice* and your choice of the prescribed texts - The White Tiger (Adiga, 2008) or The Secret River (Bovell, 2013) - in addition to at least one related text of your choice.