NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
MAY 2025

# ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE: PAPER I

Time: 3 hours 100 marks

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**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**

1. This question paper consists of 9 pages and an Insert of 12 pages (i–xii).
2. Please check that your question paper is complete.
3. Detach the Insert from the centre of the question paper.
4. Answers must be written in the Answer Book.
5. Answer all questions in your own words unless instructed to do otherwise.
6. Read the questions carefully.
7. Please number your answers exactly as the questions are numbered.
8. Do not write in the margin.
9. Manage your time carefully and consider the mark allocation when formulating your answers.
10. It is in your own interest to write legibly and to present your work neatly.

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## QUESTION 1 COMPREHENSION

Refer to **TEXT 1** on pages (i) and (ii) of the Insert, *Spare us from the clever fools who trumpet fake information, but actually believe what they are saying* by Jon Foster-Pedley, and answer the questions below.

1.1 Refer to the title.

Identify the figure of speech used in the title and explain the effectiveness of this comparison in the context of paragraph 1. (3)

1.2 Refer to paragraph 3 and the extract below:

**Origin of: Empty vessel makes most sound**

Empty vessel makes most sound

Foolish or witless people are the most noisy and talkative, an old English proverb that dates from the 1400s where the vessel concerned is a drinking vessel. Shakespeare makes use of it in Henry V, Act IV, Scene IV, "The empty vessel makes the greatest sound."

[Source: <https://idiomorigins.org/origin/empty-vessel-makes-most-sound>]

By closely referring to both paragraph 3 and the extract above, discuss the extent to which the author's opinion about people knowing more during Victorian times is valid. (3)

1.3 Refer to paragraph 5.

1.3.1 Explain how the use of dashes reinforces the register of this paragraph. (2)

1.3.2 What does the author mean by, 'like ingesting sheep dip'? (2)

1.4 Refer to paragraph 7.

Refer to the acronym, 'Simbas', used in this paragraph. Explain why this word is an effective means to describe a new group of MBA graduates when compared to the 'Sambas'. (3)

1.5 Refer to paragraph 8.

Comment on whether the 'benign clever fools' or the 'malicious clever fools' is more dangerous. (3)

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1.6 Refer to paragraph 9 and the definition below:

> Dogma (n)
> A belief laid down by an authority as absolutely true.
> Principle (n)
> A fundamental truth that serves as the foundation for a system of belief.

[Source: <https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>]

In the context of paragraph 9, explain how the author's argument would change if 'principle' was used instead of 'dogma'. (2)

1.7 Refer to paragraph 10.

Does quoting Steve Jobs add to or diminish the credibility of the author's argument? Provide clear reasons for your answer. (3)

1.8 Refer to **TEXT 1** as a whole as well as the lines extracted from Percy Bysshe Shelley's 'Ozymandias of Egypt'.

> …Near them on the sand,
> Half sunk, a shatter'd visage lies, whose frown
>
> And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command
> Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
> Which yet survive, stamp'd on these lifeless things,
> The hand that mock'd them, and the heart that fed;
>
> And on the pedestal these words appear:
> 'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:

[Source: Anthology *Clusters*, G. E. de Villiers]

Critically discuss to what extent the extract from 'Ozymandias of Egypt' reinforces the writer's opinion of the arrogance of 'clever fools' in **TEXT 1**. (4)

**[25]**

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## QUESTION 2 SUMMARY

Refer to **TEXT 2** and **TEXT 3** on pages (iii) and (iv) of the Insert.

Using the article (**TEXT 2**) and the infographic (**TEXT 3**) as your only sources, write a paragraph for a Principal's newsletter to parents about the benefits of limiting their (the parents') own screen time.

- Your summary must be in the form of **one** paragraph, using **no more than 90 words**.
- Provide an **exact** word count at the end of your summary.
- Your language must be accurate and in an appropriate register.
- Use your own words. 'Cutting and pasting' of information is not acceptable.

**[10]**

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## QUESTION 3 SEEN POETRY

Refer to the poems 'The Tenant' by Na Ngulube and 'To me, fair friend, you never can be old' by William Shakespeare on page (v) and (vi) of the Insert and answer the questions below.

3.1 Refer to lines 1–6: 'There is no room … without a word.'

Discuss what the structure and punctuation in these lines reveal about the speaker's state of mind. (3)

3.2 Refer to lines 10 and 11: 'throw out/old memories.'

Identify the figure of speech in these lines and discuss its effectiveness. (3)

3.3 Refer to lines 16–18: 'But you see … that empty space.'

Explain why the poet repeats 'all' in these lines. (2)

3.4 Refer to the title of 'To me, fair friend, you never can be old' and 'old memories' in line 11 of 'The Tenant'.

Comment on the difference in the meaning of the word 'old' in each of these poems. (3)

3.5 Consider the speakers' opinions of love in both 'The Tenant' and in 'To me, fair friend, you never can be old'.

Critically discuss how the speaker's attitude to love in 'To me, fair friend, you never can be old' could be used as a means of assisting the speaker in 'The Tenant' to 'live with/the marks on the walls' (lines 12–13). (4)

**[15]**

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## QUESTION 4 UNSEEN POETRY

Read the poems 'Fifth Grade Autobiography' by Rita Dove and 'For Oom Piet' by Finuala Dowling on pages (vii) and (viii) of the Insert and answer the questions below.

4.1 By referring closely to the first stanza, explain how this American family is depicted. (2)

4.2 Refer to lines 7–12: 'My grandfather sits … every Christmas.'

Explain how the enjambment in these lines reinforces the tone. (3)

4.3 Refer to the definition below:

> Ode (noun)
>
> a poem expressing the writer's thoughts and feelings about a particular person or subject, usually written to that person or subject.

[Source: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ode>]

Discuss why this poem could NOT be considered to be an ode. (3)

4.4 Explain why the speaker, in reference to her grandfather says: 'He's died-' (line 21) instead of 'He's dead'. (3)

4.5 Refer to 'Fifth Grade Autobiography' by Rita Dove and 'For Oom Piet' by Finuala Dowling.

Evaluate which of the poems, 'Fifth Grade Autobiography' or 'For Oom Piet', explores memory more effectively. You must refer to how imagery is used to convey this idea in each of the poems. (4)

**[15]**

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## QUESTION 5 CRITICAL AND VISUAL LITERACY

Refer to **TEXT 4, TEXT 5, TEXT 6** and **TEXT 7** on pages (ix–xii) of the Insert. Examine all the texts before attempting to answer the questions.

5.1 Refer to **TEXT 4** which includes two statements that were sent to Nike's employees.

5.1.1 Discuss the effectiveness of using a sporting metaphor in the First Statement to motivate Nike's employees. (3)

5.1.2 How would the meaning of the Second Statement change if 'rise' was replaced by the word 'perform'? (2)

5.1.3 Comment on how the changes in the font sizes in the Second Statement convey the message of the advertiser. (3)

5.2 Refer to **TEXT 5**.

Discuss the effectiveness of the minimal use of colour in **TEXT 5**. (3)

5.3 How does the sentence, 'Cycle from coast to coast for a cause' in **TEXT 5** complement the values of **TEXT 4**? Provide evidence from both texts to substantiate your answer. (3)

5.4 Consider the layout of **TEXT 6**.

Critically discuss how the layout contributes to the overall message of this cartoon. You must refer to both the visual and the verbal details to support your response. (4)

5.5 Refer to **TEXT 7**.

Whose interests are served in this advertisement? Motivate your answer by referring to the visual clues in the text. (2)

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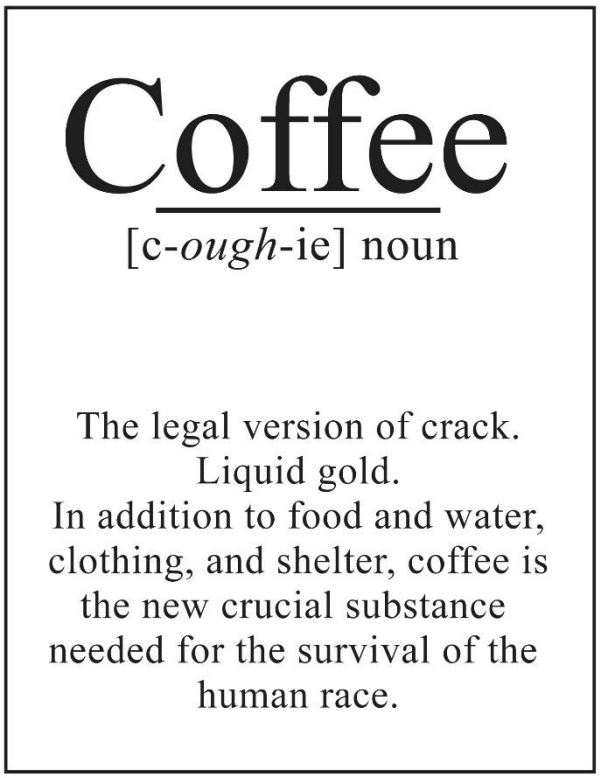
5.6 Refer to **TEXT 7** as well as the definition in the extract from 7th Psychopath's website below:




[Source: <https://goodkeenmk.life/product_details/243304859.html>]

**Will I Die If I Drink This Coffee?**

We certainly hope not. Without set criteria, scientists generally agree that around 10 grams of caffeine can lead to death. That means you would need to consume nearly 2 × 250g bags of coffee in one go, so unless you are the hulk who brews his coffee in a water tower and drinks his coffee out of a dustbin, you should be safe. We do however provide the following safety warning and if you are not sure please consult with your medical practitioner first.

[Source: <https://7thpsycho.coffee/pages/faq>]

Critically evaluate the ethics of advertising coffee in the manner of **TEXT 7**. Refer to the exaggeration of the advertisement (**TEXT 7**), the definition and the extract from 7th Psychopath Coffee's website in your response. (5)

**[25]**

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## QUESTION 6 LANGUAGE

Refer to **TEXT 8** on page (xii) of the Insert and answer the questions below.

6.1 Explain why WWF is an initialism. (2)

6.2 Explain the choice of the word 'practice' rather than 'practise'. (2)

6.3 Identify and correct the error in, 'Shocking is to know that up to 30% of the fish is caught illegally and to do nothing about it.' (2)

6.4 Should 'overfishing' be hyphenated? Explain your answer. (2)

6.5 Explain the difference between 'choose sustainable fish' and 'choose sustainable fishing'. (2)

**[10]**

**Total: 100 marks**

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