

DE BEERS

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

2009 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD
The conundrums of ambition

Tuesday, 3 March 2009

TOTAL MARKS: 100

TIME: 2 - 3 HOURS

THEME: The conundrums of ambition

TEXT: Dreams, Pipedreams, Ambitions and Disillusionments

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer **ONE** question from **Section A** and **ONE** question from **SECTION B - TWO** in all.
2. Your ideas should be expressed as clearly as possible.
3. We invite you to express your own ideas in response to the questions - there are no "right" answers.
4. Write the section and number of the question above each answer, and start each question at the top of a new page.
5. On the cover of the examination book, please indicate:
 - a) your school's olympiad number
 - b) your personal examination number
 - c) each section and the questions you have answered

Do **NOT** write your name or your school's name on the cover

ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!

All page references are from the anthology

SECTION A

60 MARKS

1. Keeping in mind the material you have read in the anthology, write Act I Scene i of “Motivation: The Musical”.
2. Thomas Gray, Billy Bragg and D H Lawrence are invited onto a talk show to discuss “Poverty and the Poor”. Write the discussion in dialogue form. You can include a talk show host in the discussion as well, if you wish. (It is recommended that your discussion is serious and NOT frivolous.)
3. See Appendix A. Imagine that Professor Singh has just given an address to a large group of student teachers on “tobephobia”. As a talented school achiever, you address the group after him and offer encouragement and advice for their future careers. Write the text of your address.
4. Write the introduction for a self-help book titled *The Dummies’ Guide to Making the Best of a Mindless Job*.
5. See Appendix B. This gives you an example of a page layout from a modern magazine, with a main article and additional side bars. Create a double page spread for a magazine such as **SL** (aimed at those living the Student Life). The main article must be headlined **Who’s To Blame For The Mess We’re In?** (In order to do justice to your ideas, you can continue the columns on further pages.)
6. See Appendix C. Write two letters in response to this letter, which was published in your local newspaper. The first reply must be from a grade 12 learner at an advantaged school who has already been accepted into Medical School. The second letter must be from a grade 10 learner at a rural school whose parents have passed away.
7. “My education has failed me.” Respond to this statement in any appropriate manner.
8. Bob has completed his education and is stuck in a dead-end job, but his imagination is still very active. Create an extract of at least 2 pages from a comic book or graphic novel in which he has a showdown with his boss. NB: This is not an art exercise, so focus on plot and creative dialogue. An

example of comic book / graphic novel format is shown in Appendix D.

9. Barak Obama, the President of the United States of America, has expressed concern at the poetry content being taught in schools. He has commissioned a poetry anthology called *Yes, We Can*. Select 5 poems from the anthology which you believe should be included and motivate your choice.
10. See Appendix E, which provides short biographical notes on Elijah, Albert Schweitzer and Christopher Columbus. Refer, also, to the poem *Sons* on page 29 of the anthology. The parents of these men did not want them to venture outside their comfort zones. Select ONE family and write the text of a discussion between the parents and their child as they discuss their hopes for the future.
11. Thomas Gray refers to an anonymous man in stanzas 12 – 15 of *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* who never achieved great fame, despite his potential. Imagine that this man could read the entire anthology. How would he feel about his life, the way Gray depicted him and the anthology as a whole. Write your response in the first person.
12. **Hire teenagers while they still know everything!** What do you think YOU know that would be helpful to an adult in the workplace?

SECTION B

40 MARKS

1. Mick Jones (*Career Opportunities* – page 45) apparently did spend time working for the post office in a job that required him to inspect letters that may have contained letter bombs. Design **two** print advertisements, aimed at school leavers, to advertise the following careers
 - checker for letter bombs
 - tea maker

AND

Write a short letter of application for **one** of these positions from someone who believes he/she is ideally suited for the post.

2. Write two reviews of the anthology. The first written by the anonymous author of *It's all in the state of the mind* and the second by Mick Jones. (See page 9 and pages 26 and 45.)
3. Rewrite stanzas 4 – 8 of *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* as Billy Bragg would have written them.

OR

Rewrite *Stay Free* as D H Lawrence would have written it.

4. You have finished your final examinations and are heading for a “party time” away from home. You are on Matric Rage. Write the following:
 - A card from your grandmother containing advice for your future
 - 3 motivational bumper stickers for your car
 - The text message you send to your mother when you receive your results
 - A graffiti wall at your campsite.
5. Colin D Mayne refers to “The cult of Normality” in his poem “*I Was a Clerk*”. Design a homepage for the (fictitious) Cult Of Normality. You may want to make use of:
 - A webpage address
 - internal and external links
 - an introduction and welcome
 - a logo
 - a slogan

6. Robert Herrick (see page 7) is invited to give a lesson at a girls' school in which he encourages the girls to marry as soon as possible. Write the text of his short address, as well as two questions from the girls and his responses.
7. Your sports team is on a losing streak. Gore Vidal (see page 8) is asked to give you a motivational address. He walks into the changing room, holding a copy of the anthology and says...
8. Merle Haggard's wife (see page 17) has tea with Robert Herrick's wife (see page 7). Write the text of their discussion in dialogue form.
9. "Butch" Weldy (page 24) is denied compensation after an accident at work. Imagine that John Lennon (page 20) hears about the case and decides to publicise it. Write the press statement he would make to the media when he takes on the cause, **and** the lyrics of the song he would compose to draw public attention to Butch's fate.

End of Examination Paper

