

DE BEERS

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

2012 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD
When Urban Meets Rural

Tuesday, 6 March 2012

TOTAL MARKS: 100

TIME: 2 - 3 HOURS

THEME: When Urban Meets Rural

TEXT: Small Town Big Voice

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. However, the better responses tend to refer to the anthology often.
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 **clearly** 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, or anywhere in your answers.

ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!

SECTION A (60 MARKS)

There is no “ideal length” for a response to Section A.
However, the better candidates generally write 3 – 5 A4 pages.

Answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Belonging?

You were not born in Africa. You're white. You'll never belong!

Chris Mann, the “Youth-Who-Cannot-Be-Named” (from *Prodigal Sons*), Harry Owen and one of the “hooligans” meet in the local pub.

Write their conversation in dialogue format.

2. A migrant labourer's story

Chris Mann tells the story of how Sakhile Wilberforce Mavundla moves from school into the migrant workforce.

Continue his story in a form of your choice.

In the 1960s, the use of migrant labour was encouraged as part of the government's strategy to counter the reliance of industry on urbanised Africans. Migrant workers did not qualify for houses in urban areas and were accommodated in complexes in most of the East Rand townships from the mid 1960s. In Daveyton, construction of a hostel to accommodate single males was approved in 1964 to cater for the “increased demand for labour particularly in the less popular types of employment... Huge hostel complexes [were] segregated along ethnic lines and accommodated up to 31000 people”. (from *The Road to Democracy: 1960 – 1970*; the South African Democracy Education Trust)

3. Lessons from life

“Shame, what a shit life they've had. Shack-gran mamas. Hellish schools.”
(*Prodigal Sons* by Chris Mann)

Can you blame your background for what you become?

Write what a teacher might tell her learners about this in a Life Orientation lesson.

4. “A black woman”

Vuyi Moreki tells of the way that whites and blacks alike are guilty of treating her with prejudice. However, gender stereotypes are a part of life. Discuss. (You could also refer to the poem *Prodigal Sons*).

****END OF SECTION A****

SECTION B (40 MARKS)

There is no “ideal length” for a response to Section B.
However, the better candidates generally write 2 – 4 A4 pages.

Answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Tell us what to do!

Write the letters that **two of** the wives of any of the men who visit the Bar regularly (mentioned in *The Bar*) write to the advice column in YOU or DRUM magazine.

AND

The advice that is offered in return in the column.

2. Blackberry Picking

Your parents have packed up and moved to the country. You love living in the city and you are very worried about this sudden move.

Write the BBM (cell-phone message) chat that you have with two or three of your city friends. (It's possible that one of the locals may pick up on the conversation.)

3. How do I love thee?

Using Chris Mann's love poetry *To Julia in the Supermarket*, *A Midlife Testimony* and *Evensong in Grahamstown Cathedral* as inspiration, write your own love poetry, TWO POEMS that reflect new and mature love.

4. “It's always so difficult being a pioneer”

This is what Vuyi Moreki, the speaker in Chris Mann's poem says about her life experience.

Write the diary entries that the following might write concerning this incident:

- a) Vuyi Moreki
- b) “[The] white man [who] draws up at the lights ... and stares”

5. Let me tell you

Sakhile, in the poem entitled *Sakhile Wilberforce Mavundla*, describes his various rites of passage (such as becoming a man, or getting married).

In letter form, write the advice that he might be given by:

The “uncles from farms”.
The headmaster from his high school.
The Master-bard Mqhayi. (A traditional poet)

**** END OF EXAMINATION PAPER ****