



NSW Education Standards Authority

**2025** HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

# English Standard

## Paper 2 — Modules

---

**General  
Instructions**

- Reading time – 5 minutes
- Working time – 2 hours
- Write using black pen

---

**Total marks:  
60**

**Section I – 20 marks** (pages 2–3)

- Attempt Question 1
- Allow about 40 minutes for this section

**Section II – 20 marks** (pages 4–5)

- Attempt Question 2
- Allow about 40 minutes for this section

**Section III – 20 marks** (page 6)

- Attempt Question 3
- Allow about 40 minutes for this section

## Section I — Module A: Language, Identity and Culture

**20 marks**

**Attempt Question 1**

**Allow about 40 minutes for this section**

Answer the question on pages 2–8 of the Paper 2 Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

---

Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate understanding of how ideas about language, identity and culture are expressed through texts
  - demonstrate understanding of how language is used to shape meaning about individuals and/or cultural groups
  - organise, develop and express ideas using language appropriate to audience, purpose and form
- 

**Question 1** (20 marks)

How does your prescribed text reveal the benefits and challenges of belonging to specific cultures?

In your response, make close reference to your prescribed text.

The Module A prescribed texts are listed on page 3.

The Module A prescribed texts are:

- **Prose Fiction**
  - Henry Lawson, *The Penguin Henry Lawson Short Stories*
    - \* *The Drover's Wife*
    - \* *The Union Buries Its Dead*
    - \* *Shooting the Moon*
    - \* *Our Pipes*
    - \* *The Loaded Dog*
  - Andrea Levy, *Small Island*
- **Poetry**
  - Adam Aitken, Kim Cheng Boey and Michelle Cahill (eds), *Contemporary Asian Australian Poets*

The prescribed poems are:

    - \* Merlinda Bobis, *This is where it begins*
    - \* Miriam Wei Wei Lo, *Home*
    - \* Ouyang Yu, *New Accents*
    - \* Vuong Pham, *Mother*
    - \* Jaya Savige, *Circular Breathing*
    - \* Maureen Ten (Ten Ch'in Ü), *Translucent Jade*
  - Ali Cobby Eckermann, *Inside my Mother*

The prescribed poems are:

    - \* *Trance*
    - \* *Unearth*
    - \* *Oombulgarri*
    - \* *Eyes*
    - \* *Leaves*
    - \* *Key*
- **Drama**
  - Ray Lawler, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*
  - Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion*
  - Alana Valentine, *Shafana and Aunt Sarrinah*
- **Nonfiction**
  - Alice Pung, *Unpolished Gem*
- **Film**
  - Rachel Perkins, *One Night the Moon*
  - Rob Sitch, *The Castle*
- **Media**
  - Janet Merewether, *Reindeer in my Saami Heart*

**End of Section I**

## Section II — Module B: Close Study of Literature

**20 marks**

**Attempt Question 2**

**Allow about 40 minutes for this section**

Answer the question on pages 10–16 of the Paper 2 Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

---

Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate understanding of a text’s distinctive qualities and how these shape meaning
  - organise, develop and express ideas using language appropriate to audience, purpose and form
- 

### **Question 2** (20 marks)

Analyse how different values and attitudes are exposed through the key features of your prescribed text.

In your response, make close reference to your prescribed text.

The Module B prescribed texts are listed on page 5.

The Module B prescribed texts are:

- **Prose Fiction** – M T Anderson, *Feed*  
– Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*
- **Poetry** – Robert Gray, *Coast Road*  
The prescribed poems are:
  - \* *Journey, the North Coast*
  - \* *Flames and Dangling Wire*
  - \* *Harbour Dusk*
  - \* *Byron Bay: Winter*
  - \* *Description of a Walk*
  - \* *24 Poems*– Oodgeroo Noonuccal  
The prescribed poems are:
  - \* *The Past*
  - \* *China ... Woman*
  - \* *Reed Flute Cave*
  - \* *Entombed Warriors*
  - \* *Visit to Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall*
  - \* *Sunrise on Huampu River*
  - \* *A Lake Within a Lake*
- **Drama** – Scott Rankin, *Namatjira* from *Namatjira and Ngapartji Ngapartji*  
– William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- **Nonfiction** – Anna Funder, *Stasiland*
- **Film** – Peter Weir, *The Truman Show*
- **Media** – Simon Nasht, *Frank Hurley: The Man Who Made History*

**End of Section II**

## Section III — Module C: The Craft of Writing

**20 marks**

**Attempt Question 3**

**Allow about 40 minutes for this section**

Answer the question on pages 18–24 of the Paper 2 Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

---

Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- craft language to address the demands of the question
  - use language appropriate to audience, purpose and form to shape meaning
- 

**Question 3** (20 marks)

‘A fond memory brings you a wave of comfort and ignites the senses. It’s the kind of memory you can visualise and describe in rich detail.’

This article was originally published as  
*‘How to live like an Epicurean’* on Psyche

Using the stimulus above, craft an imaginative or discursive piece of writing that captures the richness of a fond memory.

**End of paper**

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE