

L3 FORMAL WRITING (2 pages)

English level 3/2 – External 90721 Respond critically to written text(s) studied

Suggestions for ‘respond critically to written text(s) studied’ based on the battery hen topic:

The following suggestions are based on past NZQA exam questions.

Write an essay about one of the suggested written text types below:

- non-fiction
- poetry
- non-Shakespearean drama
- print media

An essay dealing with short texts (eg poetry or print media) should discuss at **least two examples** of the text type chosen.

Choose **one** question for your chosen text type. Write **at least 500** words for your essay.

Your essay should develop a **critical response** based on **close analysis** of appropriate text(s).

You should **support** your ideas with **relevant evidence**.

You will be rewarded for perceptive understanding and sustained insight.

Your essay should include:

- an **introduction** stating clearly the **focus** and **scope** of the argument.
- a range of **appropriate points** supported by **accurate** and **relevant evidence**.
- a **reasoned conclusion**.

Your essay should show accurate use and control of the **conventions** of academic writing.

Suggested texts

Singer, Peter. *Animal Liberation*. Second Edition. London: Thorsons, 1991.

Masson, Jeffrey Moussaieff. *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon – The Emotional World of Farm Animals*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2003.

NON-FICTION

- 1) Discuss how a work of non-fiction you have studied helped you better understand your own values and those of the world around you.
- 2) Discuss how the persuasive language techniques used in TWO or more essays you have studied helped to shape your understanding of the point of view of the author(s).
- 3) To what extent do you agree that non-fiction texts involve three **essential** components: **facts**, **opinions**, and **attitudes**? Discuss your views with reference to a work (or works) of non-fiction you have studied.
- 4) To what extent do you agree that the best non-fiction opens our eyes to what is **right** and what is **wrong** with the world around us? Discuss your views with reference to a work (or works) of non-fiction you have studied.
- 5) To what extent do you agree that it is the **style** of a non-fiction text that makes it **exceptional**? Discuss your views with reference to at least TWO features of style in a work (or works) of non-fiction you have studied.

L3 FORMAL WRITING (continued)

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POETRY

- 1) To what extent do you agree that stylistic features of poetry shape the reader's understanding of its ideas?
- 2) To what extent do you agree that place or settings reinforce ideas in poetry?
- 3) Discuss whether poetry is better suited to sadness or joy?
- 4) Discuss the ways in which symbols and figurative language (imagery) are used to develop themes.

Suggested text

Brock, Edwin. *Song of the Battery Hen: Selected Poems, 1959-1975*. London: Secker & Warburg, 1977.

NON-SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA

- 1) 'No matter how bleak they seem, all plays end in hope.' Discuss how true this statement is of *Chook Chook*.
- 2) 'The conflict created when the will of an individual opposes the will of the majority is a recurring feature of drama.' Identify such a conflict in *Chook Chook* and show how the dramatist deals with the implications for both the character and society.
- 3) 'Drama invites the audience to see their own strengths and weaknesses reflected in troubled characters and their social conflicts.' Discuss how true this statement is of *Chook Chook*.

- 4) To what extent do you agree that the **plot** is the **most important feature** of a play?

Suggested text

Farrell, Fiona. *Chook Chook*. In *Playlunch Five Short New Zealand Plays*. Ed. Prentice, Christine and Lisa Warrington. Otago: University of Otago Press. 1996.

PRINT MEDIA

- 1) Discuss how your understanding of the ideas in print journalism you have studied was shaped by the voice and point of view of the journalists.
- 2) To what extent do you agree that the best print journalism opens our eyes to the **truth** about the world we live in?
- 3) To what extent do you agree that print journalism focuses on the **joys** and/or **sorrows of life**?

Suggested texts

Kriek, Hans. 'Cruel Codes.' *SAFE Magazine* Spring/Summer 2004.

Gregory, Neville. 'Hen Batteries – Havens or Hells?' *Science Monthly* April 1995.

Morris, Michael. 'Life in a Cage. Science Says Chooks Should Run Free.' *Organic NZ* January/February 2005.