



NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION  
NOVEMBER 2025

**ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE: PAPER II**

Time: 2½ hours

100 marks

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**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**

1. This question paper consists of 8 pages. Please check that your paper is complete.
  2. Read all the questions carefully.
  3. ALL the questions in this paper are compulsory.
  4. Start each question on a new page.
  5. Number your answers exactly as the questions are numbered.
  6. Do not write in the margin.
  7. It is in your own interest to write legibly and to present your work neatly.
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**SECTION A            LITERATURE: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

Answer ALL the questions in this section.

**QUESTION 1            CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS**

Study the extract below from *To Kill a Mockingbird* before answering Questions 1.1–1.6.

'Tom's jury sho' made up its mind in a hurry,' Jem muttered.

Atticus's fingers went to his watch-pocket. 'No it didn't,' he said, more to himself than to us. 'That was the one thing that made me think, well, this may be the shadow of a beginning. That jury took a few hours. An inevitable verdict, maybe, but usually it takes 'em just a few minutes. This time – ' he broke off and looked at us. 'You might like to know that there was one fellow who took considerable wearing down - in the beginning he was rarin' for an outright acquittal.'

[Extract from: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Chapter 23]

- 1.1    What crime is Tom Robinson accused of? (1)
- 1.2    What is the jury's verdict after listening to all the witnesses? Support your response with a reason. (2)
- 1.3    Explain what Atticus means by: 'That was the one thing that made me think, well, this may be the shadow of a beginning. That jury took a few hours.' (2)
- 1.4    Why is the verdict described as 'inevitable'? (2)
- 1.5    1.5.1 Which jury member fought for an outright acquittal? (1)
- 1.5.2 Briefly explain why Jem is surprised when Atticus tells him which jury member fought for an outright acquittal. (2)
- 1.5.3 How does Atticus explain the jury member's behaviour to Jem and Scout? (2)
- 1.6    Based on the above extract from the novel, comment on the relationship between Atticus Finch and his two children. (3)

**[15]**

**QUESTION 2      PARAGRAPH: PERSONAL RESPONSE**

'There was no point in saying you were sorry if you aren't, said Atticus. 'Jem', she's old and ill. You can't hold her responsible for what she says and does. Of course, I'd rather she'd have said it to me than to either of you, but we can't always have our 'druthers.'

Jem seemed fascinated by a rose in the carpet. 'Atticus,' he said, 'she wants me to read to her.'

'Read to her?'

'Yes sir. She wants me to come every afternoon after school and Saturdays and read to her out loud for two hours. Atticus, do I have to?'

'Certainly.'

'But she wants me to do it for a month.'

'Then you'll do it for a month.'

[Extract from: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Chapter 11]

Throughout the novel, Mrs Dubose insults Atticus and is mean to both Jem and Scout.

**Do you think Atticus is being fair OR unfair towards Jem when he insists that Jem read to Mrs Dubose?**

In a **paragraph** of 180 words,

- briefly mention the incident that led to this conversation between Atticus and Jem in the above extract, and
- express your opinion on whether Atticus is fair **OR** unfair in asking Jem to read to her.

Remember:

- The tone should be persuasive.
- You must justify your point of view with references to the novel.
- Provide an accurate word count in brackets at the end of your paragraph.

Content – relevant content, well-reasoned statements and examples from the novel.	10 marks
Language, style and register are appropriate; clear stance and overall convincing voice.	5 marks

**[15]**

**QUESTION 3      DIALOGUE**

Imagine that Scout is now an adult with a family of her own. She recently gave birth to a baby girl, and Aunt Alexandra has agreed to stay with them for a few weeks to help with the baby and household chores. During one of their conversations, Scout and Aunt Alexandra discuss **the summer Aunt Alexandra stayed with the Finches in Maycomb to help Atticus with Jem and Scout.**

**In about 180 words (content only), write down the conversation that takes place between Scout and Aunt Alexandra.**

- Your writing should demonstrate that you understand the complex relationship between Scout and Aunt Alexandra, and that you know the characters in the novel. Use this information creatively.
- Make sure you use the correct style and format, including one or two meaningful gestures (in brackets) to make your dialogue come alive.
- Provide an accurate word count in brackets at the end of the conversation.

Content – relevant and creative content linked to the question.	7 marks
Dialogue format, occasional, meaningful gesture(s) in the present tense, conversational style.	3 marks

**[10]**

**QUESTION 4      ESSAY WITH GUIDELINES**

Study the extract from the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, and the quotes below before writing your response.

'I simply want to tell you that there are some men in this world who were born to do our unpleasant jobs for us. Your father's one of them.'

'Oh,' said Jem. 'Well.'

'Don't you oh-well me, sir,' Miss Maudie replied, recognising Jem's fatalistic noises, 'you are not old enough to appreciate what I said.'

Jem was staring at his half-eaten cake. 'It's like being a caterpillar in a cocoon, that's what it is,' he said. 'Like somethin' asleep wrapped up in a warm place. I always thought Maycomb folks were the best folks in the world, least that's what they seemed like.'

'We're the safest folks in the world,' said Miss Maudie.

'We're so rarely called on to be Christians, but when we are, we've got men like Atticus to go for us.'

[Extract from: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Chapter 22]

hero  
/'hɪərəʊ/

*noun*

1. a person who is admired for their courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.

[Source: *Oxford Languages*]

Hard times don't create heroes. It is during the hard times when the hero within us is revealed.

– Bob Riley

[Source: <[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/bob\\_riley\\_167773](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/bob_riley_167773)>]

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee presents different forms of **heroism** through the characters of **Atticus Finch**, **Heck Tate** (the sheriff of Maycomb County), and **Boo Radley**. Each of these characters displays courage, integrity, and a strong sense of justice in their own way.

Write an essay of approximately **250 words** in which you discuss how **Atticus**, **Heck Tate**, and **Boo Radley** can be considered heroes in the novel.

Use the following guidelines to assist you:

Paragraph 1: Use the stimuli (extract and quotes above) to define the concept of heroism and introduce the three characters as different types of heroes.

Paragraph 2: Discuss Atticus Finch's heroism, focusing on his defence of Tom Robinson, his moral courage, and his role as a father.

Paragraph 3: Explain how Heck Tate displays heroism, especially in protecting Boo Radley and ensuring justice is served in his own way.

Paragraph 4: Analyse Boo Radley's heroism, particularly his selfless act of saving Jem and Scout and the way he challenges the prejudices of Maycomb.

Paragraph 5: Summarise how these three characters embody heroism in different ways and reflect on the novel's message about courage and justice.

Please make sure that you:

- Provide a suitable title for your essay.
- Use the stimuli (extract and quotes) and guidelines provided above.
- Use relevant facts from and references to the novel to support your viewpoint.
- Use clear, logically linked paragraphs, i.e., the correct essay format.
- Provide an accurate word count in brackets at the end of your essay.

Content – a mark out of 15 for relevant content for each of the paragraph topics provided.	15 marks
Paragraph structure; suitable title; appropriate register; use of language conventions.	5 marks

**[20]**

<b>60 marks</b>
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**SECTION B            TRANSACTIONAL WRITING**

**Answer both questions in this section.**

**QUESTION 5            LONGER TRANSACTIONAL PIECE: REVIEW**

Your longtime friend, who has been living overseas for four years, recently visited you. You decided to take him/her to a high-quality, yet affordable restaurant for a special dinner.

Since your friend was very impressed with the restaurant you took him/her to, you decided to write a review to be published in your local newspaper. Write down your review.

Your review should:

- Provide the restaurant's name, location, and atmosphere.
- Describe the quality of the food, service, and overall dining experience.
- Explain why the restaurant offers good value for money.
- Highlight any unique features (e.g., live music, signature dishes, or special offers).
- Persuade the reader that this is the best option for a memorable dinner.
- Your response should be written in a formal or semi-formal tone.
- Length **150–200 words** (content only).
- Use the correct format.
- Ensure that you use the appropriate register.
- Remember to edit and proofread your review.

**[30]**

**QUESTION 6      SHORT TRANSACTIONAL PIECE: THANK-YOU NOTE**

Your school career has come to an end, and on your last day of school, your best friend at school gives you a special gift. Your friend plans to take a gap year before starting his/her studies in 2027.

Write a thank-you note to your best friend, expressing your gratitude for the gift and reflecting on the memories you have shared throughout your school years. You may also extend your best wishes for his/her future plans.

- Your thank-you note should convey sincerity and warmth.
- Length **120–150 words**.
- Use the correct register.
- Remember to edit and proofread your work.



[Source: <<https://i0.wp.com/www.salescoachdew.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/handwritten-thank-you-note-792.jpg?resize=760%2C428&ssl=1>>]

**[10]****40 marks****Total: 100 marks**