



ISHU IB DP Programme Entrance Test

DP ENGLISH A (LITERATURE)

Admission test:

Candidates applying for the course in ENGLISH A (LITERATURE) are required to sit an admission test (80 minutes) to assess their close reading skills, and their ability to respond to unfamiliar literary material. Candidates will be asked to carry out 2 tasks:

1. They will be given a short text/passage (formats may include poetry, prose (fiction and non-fiction), drama). **The first part of the test is guided analysis:** candidates will have to answer questions related to different elements of the text/passage: meaning, language, imagery, form etc.
2. The **second part of the test is an essay.** Candidates will be asked to write an essay (300 words) commenting on how the theme (s) of the given text/passage can be interpreted in the modern context.

No prior knowledge of the texts given for analysis is required. What is assessed is the ability to:

1. *comment on unknown text and textual features*
2. *maintain a focus on the task*
3. *develop ideas logically*
4. *write an adequate degree of accuracy in grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction*
5. *choose appropriate style and register*

Example:

ISLAND MAN (by Grace Nichols)

Morning	he always comes back groggily
and island man wakes up	groggily
to the sound of blue surf	Comes back to sands
in his head	of a grey metallic soar
the steady breaking and wombing	to surge of wheels
wild seabirds	to dull North Circular roar
and fishermen pushing out to sea	muffling muffling
the sun surfacing defiantly	his crumpled pillow waves
from the east	island man heaves himself
of his small emerald island	Another London day

A: Answer the questions:

1. Who is the 'island man' in the poem?
2. What is the setting like? Is there one setting only?
3. Comment on the word choice describing the places. What conclusions can be made on this basis/
4. How is imagery (words that appeal to senses (smells/sights/sounds etc) help to create the meaning here?
5. Why is there no punctuation in the poem? Does it create an effect? How?

B: Essay: Respond to the questions below in a coherent text:

Remember to develop your ideas logically and add a new perspective

- How can the message of the poem be understood in a wider context?
Connect it to the modern world/your experience