

HSC English Standard — Paper 2: The Modules

Practice Paper 1

Instructions

- This is a full HSC English Standard **Paper 2 — The Modules**. It is worth **60 marks** and, in the real exam, runs for **2 hours** plus 5 minutes reading time. Allow about 40 minutes for each section.
- **Section I (20 marks) — Module A: Language, Identity and Culture**. One extended response on your prescribed text.
- **Section II (20 marks) — Module B: Close Study of Literature**. One extended response on your prescribed text.
- **Section III (20 marks) — Module C: The Craft of Writing**. One composition task (imaginative, discursive or persuasive), sometimes with a short reflection.
- Module A and B each **name a real NESA Standard prescribed text** and analyse it with verified quotations; each of the 10 papers uses **different** set texts. If you study a different text, apply the same approach to your own. Module C models are original compositions.
- Every model answer names the **syllabus outcome** it addresses and ends with a **Marker's logic** note explaining why it would score well.

Section I — Module A: Language, Identity and Culture

20 marks · Allow about 40 minutes for this section.

Question 1 (20 marks)

THE CASTLE directed by Rob Sitch. How does your prescribed text use distinctive language features to create a strong sense of belonging to a place and a culture? In your response, make detailed reference to the text.

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Section II — Module B: Close Study of Literature

20 marks · Allow about 40 minutes for this section.

Question 2 (20 marks)

THE TRUMAN SHOW directed by Peter Weir. Module B rewards close study. How does the distinctive use of film techniques in your prescribed text shape a powerful response in the viewer? Make detailed reference to the text.

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Section I — Module A: Language, Identity and Culture — Model Response

SET TEXT: 'The Castle' (1997), directed by Rob Sitch (film)

This paper is built around the named NESA Standard prescribed text above; the quotations are web-verified. If your prescribed text differs, apply the same question framing and analytical approach to your own text.

Thesis: Rob Sitch's 'The Castle' uses the colloquial voice of the Kerrigan family to celebrate a distinctly Australian working-class identity, showing that belonging is rooted less in property than in the language of love, humour and home.

Sitch builds identity through vernacular. Darryl Kerrigan's catch-cries — “This is going straight to the pool room” and “How's the serenity?” — use idiomatic Australian English and comic understatement to represent a family that measures wealth in belonging, not money. The naive voice-over of son Dale frames the film with an affectionate, ocker warmth.

The film's humour doubles as cultural critique. Darryl's legal argument that the Constitution's “it's just the vibe of the thing” becomes a joke about his lack of expertise, yet it also voices a genuine belief that home cannot be reduced to law or market value. Sitch uses this gap between plain speech and grand institutions to side with the ordinary Australian.

Ultimately Sitch defines belonging as emotional, not material. Darryl's insistence that “a man's home is his castle” and that “it's not a house, it's a home” elevates the modest Bonnie Doon house into a symbol of family and place. Through warm characterisation and celebratory tone, the film argues that identity is made in the language and love shared under a roof.

KEY TAKEAWAY Directly answers the question's focus on 'distinctive language features' and 'belonging to a place and a culture'; Analyses filmic and language techniques (vernacular, voice-over, comic understatement) with effect; Uses verified, iconic lines integrated into the argument; Sustains a clear thesis about belonging as emotional rather than material — top-band conceptual control.

Outcome — EN12-3: analyses and uses language forms, features and structures of texts and justifies their appropriateness for purpose, audience and context