

VCE English Practice Paper 1

Section A / B / C — Questions & Solutions

Section A: Analytical Interpretation of a Text · Section B: Creating Texts · Section C: Analysis of Language and Argument How to use this booklet

- Attempt all three sections under timed conditions before turning to the solutions.
- Suggested time: 1 hour per section (reading, planning and writing).
- Section A: choose ONE of the two prompts provided on the set text.
- Section B: respond to the Framework of Ideas stimulus in any written form.
- Section C: analyse the language and argument of the persuasive article — do not give your own opinion.
- Band 6 exemplars, planning outlines, and assessor commentary follow the blank page and divider below.

SECTION B – CRAFTING/CREATING TEXTS

Framework of Ideas: Play

Instructions to students: Read the stimulus material below. Create a written text that explores an idea, image or mood from the stimulus, drawing on your understanding of the Framework of Ideas: Play. You may write in any form. Approximately 1 hour, including reading and planning time.

Written stimulus:

“The rules of the game had been agreed before anyone remembered agreeing to them. Chalk lines on hot concrete, a tin can, the unspoken understanding that whoever got there first called out first. Nobody wrote any of it down. And yet every kid on the street could recite it — could tell you, without hesitating, what counted as cheating and what counted as clever.”

Visual stimulus:

A black-and-white photograph — a suburban street at dusk, hopscotch squares faintly visible in chalk on the footpath, a bicycle lying on its side on the nature strip, its front wheel still spinning. No people are visible in the frame.

Angles for consideration:

Play as a space where rules are invented, tested and broken • Play as rehearsal for the seriousness of adult life • The moment play stops, and what that silence means • Who gets left out of the game, and why.

SECTION C – ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE AND ARGUMENT

The Blackwood Skyway proposal

Background: the fictional Blackwood City Council is considering converting 2.3 km of disused elevated rail viaduct into “The Skyway”, a public walking and cycling path. Resident Marcus Ferro submitted the opinion piece below to the Blackwood Weekly, published in its opinion section.

Task: analyse how argument and language are used to persuade readers to share the author’s point of view. Do not give your own opinion. Approximately 1 hour, including reading time.

Blackwood Weekly — Opinion | “Let’s stop stepping over our own good luck” | by Marcus Ferro

For eleven years I have walked past the old Blackwood viaduct on my way to the station, and for eleven years it has done nothing but rust. Weeds grow through the sleepers. Pigeons roost where trains once ran. It is, by any honest measure, a waste — 2.3 kilometres of prime inner-city land doing absolutely nothing for the people who live around it.

That is why the council’s Skyway proposal deserves more than a polite nod at a community meeting. It deserves our full-throated support.

Consider what similar projects have delivered elsewhere. New York’s High Line did not merely tidy up an eyesore; it became one of the most visited public spaces in the city, generating an estimated billions of dollars in surrounding property and business investment within a decade of opening. Seoul’s Skygarden turned a condemned highway overpass into a living plant nursery threaded through the heart of the city. In both cases, planners were told the projects were unaffordable fantasies. In both cases, the doubters were wrong.

Here in Blackwood, we are fortunate enough to already own the hard part. The steel is there. The alignment is there, cutting a green spine straight through four suburbs that currently share not one decent linear park between them. We are not being asked to imagine some speculative future infrastructure project costing hundreds of millions of dollars. We are being asked whether we will finally use what is already, quite literally, standing above our heads.

Opponents raise the cost of remediation — reasonably enough, on the surface. But compare that cost to what we are currently paying to do nothing: a derelict structure that depresses property values on every street it shadows, that provides a haven for illegal dumping, and that will, sooner or later, need to be either restored or demolished at ratepayers’ expense regardless of what we decide about its future use. The choice was never really between spending money and not spending money. It was between spending money on a structure that gives something back, and spending money on one that never will.

I think of my daughter, who is seven, and who has never once played on a piece of ground that wasn’t a car park, a backyard the size of a car park, or a strip of nature reserve squeezed between two arterial roads. I think of the elderly residents on Reilly Street who tell me they’d walk to the shops more often if there were somewhere shaded and flat to do it. I think of what it says about a city when it lets a genuine gift — height, shade, a view of the bay from a part of town that has never had one — sit unused because turning it into something felt, at some point, too hard.

It isn’t too hard. It has been done, successfully, in cities far larger and far more constrained than ours. All that’s missing is the will to stop walking past our own good luck and start climbing the stairs.

Marcus Ferro is a Blackwood resident and member of the Reilly Street Residents’ Association.

a fourth body paragraph on setting/Deane as an enforcing presence)

KEY TAKEAWAY

Sustained, precise engagement with the prompt: every paragraph returns explicitly to the “love/fear as inseparable” claim and complicates it. Controlled, text-integrated argument: a single line of argument develops step by step rather than listing disconnected observations. Understanding of authorial construction: repeated naming of Birch’s deliberate choices (“Birch structures”, “Birch is careful to show”) is the clearest marker separating Band 5 from Band 6. Contextual grounding without info-dumping: the assimilation-era removal policy is invoked only where it does direct interpretive work. Fluent, exam-appropriate expression: varied sentence rhythm; analytical, not descriptive, topic sentences.

TEST PAPERS HUB - NOT FOR RESALE OR REDISTRIBUTION