

# International Baccalaureate

# 1/L&LWT (reverse)

## Programme summary:

Give details of the texts and topics studied during each part of the course. For parts 1 and 2, state the topics studied. For parts 3 and 4, state the titles and authors of works studied.

Part 1:	LANGUAGE IN CULTURAL CONTEXT: The use of persuasive language in political speeches, features of sms messages, gender issues, language and sexuality, language and power, propaganda, translations (what is added and what is lost) language and Taboo (swearing and political correctness, language and identity).
Part 2:	LANGUAGE AND MASS COMMUNICATION: Objectification of women in the media: The portrayal of subgroups within the media, 5 key questions for media literacy, the language of persuasion, propaganda, satire, textual bias, popular culture, stereotypes, sensationalism, role of editing, language analysis, speeches, twitter, types and techniques in advertisements and literary techniques and devices.
Part 3:	LITERATURE : TEXTS AND CONTEXTS: "Blood Wedding" - Federico Garcia Lorca "A Street Car Named Desire" - Tennessee Williams
Part 4:	LITERATURE CRITICAL STUDY: Things Fall Apart - Chinua Achebe Selected Short Stories - Kate Chopin

## Task summary: (please complete the relevant section for SL or HL)

### Standard level (SL) only:

Total number of sheets attached:

Number of words in rationale (200-300 words):

Number of words in written task (800-1000 words):

Text type:

### Higher level (HL) only:

Total number of sheets attached:

Number of words in task 1 rationale (200-300 words):

Number of words in written task 1 (800-1000 words):

Number of words in written task 2 (800-1000 words):

Text type (written task 1 only):

Prescribed question on which task 2 is based:

**Candidate declaration:** I confirm that this is my own work and is the final version. I have acknowledged each use of the words or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

Candidate's signature:  Date:

**Teacher declaration:** I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the material submitted is the authentic work of the candidate.

Teacher's name:  Signature:  Date:

**English A: Language and Literature**

**Written Task 1**

**HL**

**Part 1: Language In Cultural Context**

**Text Type: Opinion column**

**Candidate name:**

**Candidate number:**

**School Name:**

**School code:**

**Session:** May 2014

**Number of pages:** 9 (including cover page)

**Total number of words:** 1212

**Rationale:** 215

**Opinion Column:**997

Rationale:

Written task one Part 1: Language In Cultural Context is an opinion column based on a poem, 'Being black in a Work Place'.

I chose to write this piece as an opinion column on stereotyping on the matter of racism being a major factor occurring in working environments for a literary magazine. The piece brings out the awareness of the unfairness in society due to skin color, in specific, the discrimination against blacks. I wanted to bring awareness of the inequality between races and the troubles that they face. The piece also touches on topics such as psychological and emotional consequences of such races suffering from this kind of discrimination. The column constantly points out to the argument on whether if it is right to discriminate due to ones skin color. The column talk about the stereotyping that is presented in working environments. Many other elements are spoken about touching on prejudice, oppression and atrocities in society.

Language in cultural context dealt with themes of discrimination and how language is used mainly to convey and create ideas that lead to discrimination.

The poem 'Being Black in a Work Place' gives an accurate representation of a stereotypical black person, in a workplace and how they are mistreated. The poet conveys his message to the reader by the use of strong language and cultural references throughout the poem and it is by this that we see how language and meaning can mean much more through the context in language. The poet also uses rhetorical devices like *Anaphora, Parallelism, Similes, Hypophora, Ethos, Pathos and Logos*. The poem brings the question of, is it right to discriminate ones potential just due to their skin color. This poem continuously talks about the struggle in a work place that a person of a different culture faces, and how they are looked down upon, and are considered inferior in other people's eyes and are just not good enough. This poem raised the awareness about how unfair society can be just due to the color of your skin.

Racism and discrimination are very real and have existed throughout history. Despite laws against racial discriminatory practices in the workplace, Black people still encounter a series of problems, and workplace equality for the blacks still remains elusive. Sometimes it may not even be just from individual actions, but from organizational policies and practices.

The poem "Being Black in a Work Place," portrays a discriminated view on blacks and how it effects them, as to how they feel as how their oppressors treat them. The poet uses very explicit language to display stereotypical white people and how they treat a black person. The poet uses certain words such as "weakness," "speechless", "strange." These harsh words and language bring out more emphasis on how blacks are made to feel because of the color of their skin and cultural backgrounds. The poet uses this type of

language to demonstrate how the oppressors use these words to display an image of superiority. By the words “weakness,” we see from this choice of word that the poet shows us his feelings through the way of language and that white people do consider them to be weak and not as powerful as them. He also uses the word “speechless” when the poet uses this maybe the poet is meaning to say that they don’t give their culture a chance to speak because it would not be as important than if a white person spoke. The poet uses rhetorical devices such as *anaphora*. *Anaphora* is the repetition of the same word or a group of words. Here the word “They” has been repeated and it is this word that the poet is referring to as the “white person”, and this is repeated in almost 10 lines of the poem.

In this poem the line “they consider my uniqueness strange”(“Being black in,” 2006) is shown to stand out quite a lot, along with some others. But in particular this line implies, that who they are, and how they are, is not socially accepted in society and they are considered as “strange.” The poet here feels a very strong hate that is given to their culture. The poet feels that their uniqueness isn’t acceptable and that this is unfair that they are said to be “strange” just because of their color of their skin. He also uses *Parallelism* when he refers to words such as; “They take my kindness for weakness... they take my silence for speechless.....”(“Being black in,” 2006). The language that is used here shows a very disapproving attitude that white people have against black people. In the next line “they call my language slang”(“Being black in,” 2006) describes a very straightforward view of how language effects a person in society, but more specifically in context here, at the work place. We see here that the black person portrays their oppressors to have absolutely no respect towards the blacks and blatantly show

resentment towards them. When the poet here talks about his language being referred to as “slang” we find that the poet himself or herself knows that people have no respect for them because of their way of talking isn’t supposedly “proper” so therefore whatever they say is of no importance and they are not upto the higher social standards. They are made to believe that they wouldn’t fit in with the rest because they are “strange” and they talk in “slang” therefore not living upto the high social standards and therefore are not welcome.

The workplace is increasingly becoming more diverse than ever before. However, discrimination in a workplace can lead to negative psychological and emotional consequences. It can also create a hostile work environment. We see this from the poet saying “they minimize my intelligence to “potential”. In this line we see that the language being used here is very patronizing. Also, the word “potential” has been put in quotation; this helps the poet in emphasizing their point. The poet again brings out the idea that they are just not good enough, they are made to feel like they do not belong and that whatever intelligence that they might have, whether it be good or not, it’s still not regarded to be as to up to their standards or worthy enough to be complemented. “If I stand up for myself, I’m too defensive.”Emotionally speaking, the poet feels that this is totally unfair. The poet here feels that it’s unfair that they get treated so badly and are put down and are just not allowed to do anything about it and if they do then they are said to be as “too defensive”. It’s almost like the poet is trying to say that whatever they do seems to be the wrong thing. Nothing that they do, even if it is standing up for themselves is not acceptable. Over here, the poet has used *Similes*. A simile is comparing two different

things by using the words “Like or as”. Here the poet uses this to complain and explaining their oppressor’s feelings towards Blacks.

The poem also shows a lot of connection to the cultural aspect. The poet says “My character is constantly under attack, Pride for my race makes me “TOO BLACK ”. The lines “And, who am I you ask? I am that Strong Black Person...”.Here the poet is taking great pride to his culture. We see this when he says “I am that strong black person” here the poet has now given us the readers a different mindset, it makes us now think and know that our poet is tired of being called weak and is tired of being made to be inferior to the other and that yes. he is that strong black person and is not going to let anything get in the way just because of the color of their skin. This is a *hypophora*, as he is raising a question “And who am I you ask?” and then is proceeding to answer it himself “I am that strong black person”. From these very line the poet very distinctively displays how his character, race, culture is continuously facing prejudice. The poet also, has a lot of *Ethos* in the poem as we see that he is constantly telling us about how the blacks character is being viewed as. Like when the poet says “ They see my mistakes as defeat”here the poet is showing us how their character is being viewed as and this could mean that they find them weak. It is full of *Pathos* and it appeals to the reader’s emotions, and is trying to make the reader believe and understand how and if it’s fair for them to be mistreated and discriminated. We see this when the poet says “If I stand up for myself, I'm too defensive. □□If I don't trust them, I'm too apprehensive.” Here the poet explains how unfair they find it that they are not allowed to stand up for themselves and this now takes the reader emotionally and this definitely make us understand more about how they must feel not being able to fend for themselves.

Black history is worth appreciating in a society that overlooks minority accomplishment. The poet calls himself a “Strong Black Person” going back into history and time, where his ancestor’s with pride and dignity, had braved all odds. The poet used *Logos*, which appeals to the logical thinking of the reader, in the last stanza of the poem, where he tries to reason and gives supporting evidence of his forefathers and their struggle and success.

The poem gives a representation of a stereotypical black person, in a workplace and how they are mistreated. Throughout the poem we see that the poet is conveying the message to the reader by the use of strong language and cultural references. The poet also uses rhetorical devices like *Anaphora*, *Parallelism*, *Similes*, *Hypophora*, *Ethos*, *Pathos* and *Logos*, which help him to bring more emphasis to his poem. The poet is unknown but from the poem we can gather that it is a black person. Racism denotes prejudice, oppression and atrocities against a certain sect or group of people, by another class of people, as it is their belief that inherent racial differences among people, is the reason for superiority of a particular group. This exists in many forms throughout the world. However the basis of this difference is largely because of the color of ones skin. We see this from the language and cultural references that were continuously repeated in the poem. Black people are subjected to tremendous discrimination and it is rampant even in the workplace. It is unfortunate even in today’s world, that we do not provide equal opportunity to each and every person. Racism has been one of the biggest evils faced by mankind.

**Bibliography**

*Being black in the work place.* (2006). Retrieved from  
<http://www.tributetoblackwomen.com/poems/workplace.htm>

Appendix

**Being Black in the Work Place**

They take my kindness for weakness.

They take my silence for speechless.

They consider my uniqueness strange.

They call my language slang.

They see my confidence as conceit.

They see my mistakes as defeat.

They consider my success accidental.

They minimize my intelligence to "potential".

My questions mean "I'm unaware".

My advancement is somehow unfair.

Any praise is preferential treatment.

To voice concern is discontentment.

If I stand up for myself, I'm too defensive.

If I don't trust them, I'm too apprehensive.

I'm defiant! if I separate. I'm fake if I assimilate.

Yet, constantly I am faced with work place hate.

My character is constantly under attack.

Pride for my race makes me, "TOO BLACK".

Yet, I can only be me.

And, who am I you ask?

I am that Strong Black Person...

Who stands on the backs of my ancestor's achievements, with an erect spine pointing to the stars with pride, dignity and respect which lets the work place in America know, that I not only possess the ability to play by the rules, but I can make them as well! Black History 365

~ Arthur Unknown ~

**English A: Language and Literature**

**Written Task 2**

**HL**

**Part 3: Texts and Contexts**

**Power and Privilege**

**Topic: How and why is a Social group represented in a particular way?**

**Text: *Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller***

**Candidate name:**

**Candidate number:**

**School Name:**

**School code:**

**Session: May 2014**

**Number of pages: 5 (including cover sheet)**

**Total number of words: 948**

**Outline Words:170**

*Type:* Analytical Essay

*Part 3:* Texts and Contexts

**Question:** Power and Privilege: How and why is a Social group represented in a particular way?

*Text used:* Death of a Salesman

***Paragraph 1:***

How and why are women portrayed?

- Their use in the text
- Linda the American Dream

***Paragraph 2:***

- The difference between Linda and 'The women'
- How are they contrasting
- Linda a typical housewife (submissive)
- 'The Women the opposite of Linda

***Paragraph 3:***

- Linda appears
- Dramatic technique
- Stage direction
- The way that Linda physically presents herself and why

***Paragraph 4:***

- The other women
- The way she picked Willy
- She is damaging the American dream

***Paragraph 5:***

- Overall the women provide comfort to Lomans
- Talks about the society they live in
- The division between Female and Male roles
- Use of Females to portray and market the myth of the American dream to the general public

The play written by Arthur Miller, 'Death of a Salesman', represents an ordinary American middle class family. This play has been able to depict the women and their different lifestyles through the idea of the American dream. We also find that the women cater to a variety of functions. The theme of gender roles, gives a good representation of the very conventional impression of the typical 'The American Dream'. This is discretely represented in the play when the egotistical stubbornness of a man comes into view in a few scenes in the story. We find that the women in this novel provide specific comforts to the male gender. Therefore, with the variety of uses in techniques, and other dramatic elements that is used to help portray these characters, throughout the play.

One of the main characters in the novel being Linda Loman, Willy's wife. Linda, epitomizes the American dream. She portrays the idea of the 'perfect wife'. She is a stay home mother, does the household work, produced two healthy males and adores her husband in a way that she does not accept there to be any faults in him. From the very start of the novel we come to see how, Linda, the whole time makes excuses for Willy's faults. In a way she does not let him take responsibility for them. This is however what causes the dispute between Linda and her son, Biff. He wishes for her to see his faults, but she still chooses to support him, as she loves her husband so dearly. From the few female characters present in the novel we see how each of the women are represented in a different way. We find that Linda's character is respected a lot more than 'the woman'. However, she is also a lot more submissive than 'the woman'. We also see how Letta and Miss Forsythe are considered as whores by Linda as they are not accepted in society for their behavior. Linda sees them this way because, the way that they behave is not

appropriate as a way a lady should behave in their society. Once again, the idea of the American dream, 'Linda' being destroyed. This novel portrays a strong bias in gender roles. It also represents a stereotypical behavior that female roles must portray to fit into the society.

Linda's characteristics can be seen when paying attention to Arthur Miller's parenthetic stage directions. We see it when she speaks to her sons, Happy and Biff. She comes off as being very stern, resolute and confident. However, when Linda converses with Willy, she seems to be a lot more submissive. We find this through her tone of speech. Also, the fact that she keeps giving Willy the benefit of the doubt. When one imagines Linda conversing with her husband we seem to place her saying her lines in different ways, such as 'trembling with sorrow and joy', or 'very carefully and delicately'. This novel is in a way depicting the American dream and being able to market these very ideologies to such societies.

However, the character of the 'other woman' is contradicting this very American dream of the perfect wife that Linda seems to portray. The fact that the other woman's name is never mentioned and is therefore, always referenced to as "the woman" just shows the conflicting relationship that she brings into the play. Linda and the woman have the opposite characteristics. We see this when she mentions to Willy how she is the one that picked him and that it was not the other way around. We find that Willy is usually not used to a woman talking to him like that and how he starts to scream at her. This very incident in the novel clearly states to us the very dominating role that the men

play in this play. The role of the 'other woman' is brought into this play to destroy this idea of the American Dream that Willy's family is trying so very hard to have.

It is clear that the American dream has corrupted Willy's mind, but Linda seems to be the only thing left of this dream. Throughout the novel we find how women provide the Lomans with comfort and shelter. Linda, specifically, is a panacea for Willy, like when she tells him he is the "handsomest man in the world" (Arthur Miller, 1949). She is the one that sheds a positive light on his accomplishments. When Willy complains about having an empty, run-down house, Linda consoles him, telling him that paying off the house is "an accomplishment". However, Willy's mistress in Boston 'The woman' provides succor for Willy from his humdrum existence. She seems to inflate his ego, consoling him with lines like, "You're so sweet, and such a kidder" (Arthur Miller, 1949). This shows that the women exist primarily for the Lomans' character development.

In conclusion, Arthur Miller's, novel 'Death of a Salesman', gives a good representation of the overall attitude given to achieve the American dream, with the use of the differentiation in characters, and their flaws to achieve this American Dream. This novel has been able to market these ideas by using various dramatic techniques and other elements that pertain to the perfect wife and the ideologies of a perfect American family.

**Bibliography**

Arthur, Miller. (1949). *Death of a salesman*.