



## ATAR course examination, 2020

### Question/Answer booklet

# ENGLISH

Place one of your candidate identification labels in this box.  
Ensure the label is straight and within the lines of this box.

WA student number: In figures

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In words

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### Time allowed for this paper

Reading time before commencing work: ten minutes  
Working time: three hours

Number of additional  
answer booklets used  
(if applicable):

### Materials required/recommended for this paper

#### *To be provided by the supervisor*

This Question/Answer booklet

#### *To be provided by the candidate*

Standard items: pens (blue/black preferred), pencils (including coloured), sharpener,  
correction fluid/tape, eraser, ruler, highlighters

Special items: nil

### Important note to candidates

No other items may be taken into the examination room. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that you do not have any unauthorised material. If you have any unauthorised material with you, hand it to the supervisor **before** reading any further.



## Structure of this paper

Section	Number of questions available	Number of questions to be answered	Suggested working time (minutes)	Marks available	Percentage of examination
Section One Comprehending	3	3	60	30	30
Section Two Responding	6	1	60	40	40
Section Three Composing	5	1	60	30	30
<b>Total</b>					100

## Instructions to candidates

1. The rules for the conduct of the Western Australian external examinations are detailed in the *Year 12 Information Handbook 2020: Part II Examinations*. Sitting this examination implies that you agree to abide by these rules.
2. Write your answers in this Question/Answer booklet.
3. You must be careful to confine your answers to the specific questions asked and to follow any instructions that are specific to a particular question.
4. Supplementary pages for planning/continuing your answers to questions are provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.
5. You must not use texts from Section One to answer questions from Section Two.

See next page

**Section One: Comprehending****30% (30 Marks)**

In this section, there are **three** texts and **three** questions. Answer **all** questions.

You are required to comprehend and analyse unseen written and visual texts and respond concisely in approximately 200–300 words for each question.

Suggested working time: 60 minutes.

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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA AS IT WILL BE CUT OFF

## Text 1

Text 1 is an extract from a memoir by Benjamin Law, entitled “‘The best in the world’: a love letter to Australia’s public pools.’ It was published on *The Guardian* website in 2018.

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My parents were Cantonese migrants from Hong Kong who, in the 1970s, moved to Queensland’s Sunshine Coast, home to some of the country’s most beautiful beaches. It still strikes me as a slightly baffling decision, given neither of them could swim. Water compelled and terrified them and their five Australian-born kids.

While other people saw stunning coastlines, we just saw a picturesque way to die. Rips could kill you, people said. Sharks could kill you. Skin cancer could kill you. Weirdly, it was always white people who told us these things, the same white people who seemed to *keep going to the beach*. Were we missing something? Did they *want* to die?

A safer option was the public pool. Years of TV safety campaigns had convinced Mum we needed to know how to swim, because she sure as hell couldn’t save us if we were drowning. Throughout summer, we’d wail as Mum drove us to the nearest suburban leisure centre for lessons. I suspect we dreaded those lessons as much as our instructors dreaded teaching us, those hopeless Asian kids spluttering with anxiety inside the enclosed training pool, those stinking hothouses of chemicals, piss and wet togs (or cossies, or bathers, or swimmers – depending on your state).

After the nightmare was over, we’d be sedated with a treat – an ice block or a packet of lollies – before falling asleep in the stuffy Ford car, hair matted to our temples, seat belts twisted into our skin and fingers dusted orange from the Twisties we stole from each other.

The horror didn’t end there. At school, not only were swimming lessons mandatory, carnivals were too – annual, school-run swim meets, ostensibly fun but deeply competitive. We even had togs in school colours that we had to buy from the uniform shop.

At swimming carnivals, all the outcasts were bunched together: the ethnic kid with no body fat (me); pale kids with lots of body fat. We had to swim in an event – *any* event – so we’d do the novelty race, paddling together on inflatable rafts, damp with chlorine and shame, as everyone cheered and jeered us on.



**Text 2**

Text 2 is an extract from the 2010 novel *Wavelength*, by Western Australian author, A J Betts. Its protagonist is a Year 12 student named Oliver.

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He's drawn to the blue light beaming down over the pool, and he's not the only one. There are dozens of insects softly smacking at the floodlight that shines like a beacon. He wonders if they confuse it with the moon. At least they leave him alone as he sits at the base of the light pole. In front of him the fifty-metre pool stretches out like iridescent silk. The surface is unruffled and tight, as if you could peel it back like a layer of skin.

Oliver runs his hands through the water again and it's not cold at all. Ripples arc out, sliding all the way to the shallow end. He relocates himself and the books to the edge so he can submerge his feet and calves. The water feels warm and thick and it relaxes his legs and everything else in him. He notices the subtle reflection of stars.

The lane is long and straight in front of him, longer than he remembers, when three mornings a week were dedicated to trawling lanes like these: 400m warm-ups, 400m kicking, 8x50m sprints, 600m medley and 400m cool down, all before school. Back then a lap could take forty seconds, or thirty-eight if he tried really hard.

Oliver recalls his arms spearing the surface, the frenzy of bubbles and gasping for air at the end. A lap wasn't very long, back then, not like it looks now.

Is it nostalgia that coaxes him to his feet? Standing on the platform just before a race was the most exhilarating part. He would fold himself over, his webbed toes spread across the edge of the platform. In those seconds before the starter's gun, nothing else in the world mattered. His head would throb with his pulse; his guts would drop to his chest. He dared not breathe, his body waiting for the signal followed by the frightening burst of power and speed and everything. It was terrifying. And addictive. He often wondered what he might have achieved – how far he could have gotten – if his dad had never left and he had kept on swimming.







**Section Two: Responding****40% (40 Marks)**

In this section, there are **six** questions. Answer **one** question.

Your response should demonstrate your analytical and critical thinking skills with reference to any text or text type you have studied.

Suggested working time: 60 minutes.

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**Question 4****(40 marks)**

With reference to at least **one** text, discuss why a text created in one context may resonate with an audience in another context.

**Question 5****(40 marks)**

Compare **two** texts of the same genre to show how they are stylistically different.

**Question 6****(40 marks)**

Evaluate how a text's meaning changed when it was transformed into a different genre or medium.

**Question 7****(40 marks)**

Show how analysing voice in at least **one** text led you to question the assumptions and/or values it communicated.

**Question 8****(40 marks)**

Consider how other interpretations of a text helped you evaluate its perspective/s.

**Question 9****(40 marks)**

Explain how at least **one** text conforms to generic conventions while still challenging its audience.

See next page

**Section Three: Composing****30% (30 Marks)**

In this section, there are **five** questions. Answer **one** question.

You are required to demonstrate writing skills by choosing a form of writing appropriate to a specific audience, context and purpose.

Suggested working time: 60 minutes.

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**Question 10****(30 marks)**

'Our greatest experiences are our quietest moments'.

Create an interpretive text in which you reflect on this quotation.

**Question 11****(30 marks)**

Compose a persuasive text that would incorporate or accompany this image.

**Question 12****(30 marks)**

Create a text in a form of your choice that experiments with structural features to enhance its central idea.

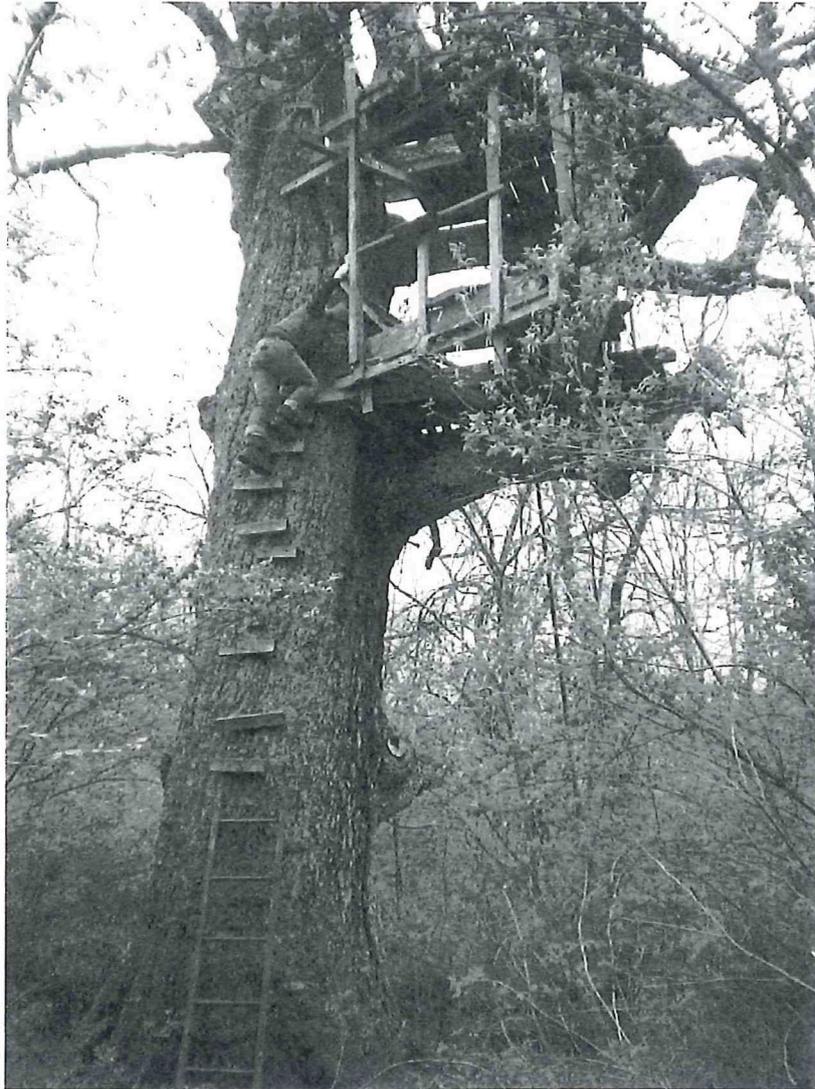
**Question 13****(30 marks)**

'Buy the ticket, take the ride'.

Compose a text in a genre of your choice that incorporates this quotation at a key point.

**Question 14****(30 marks)**

Craft an imaginative text inspired by the following image.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Question 1** Adapted from: Law, B. (2018). *'The best in the world': a love letter to Australia's public pools*. Retrieved May, 2020, from <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/apr/13/best-world-love-letter-australia-public-pools-sydney-swimming>
- Question 2** Betts, A. (2010). *Wavelength*. Fremantle: Fremantle Press, pp. 94–96.
- Question 3** BBDO. (2011). [Webber Wentzel Attorneys advertisement]. Retrieved May, 2020, from [https://www.adsoftheworld.com/media/print/webber\\_wentzel\\_boxer](https://www.adsoftheworld.com/media/print/webber_wentzel_boxer)
- Question 10** Nietzsche, F. (n.d.). [Quote about greatest experiences]. Retrieved May, 2020, from <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/575989>
- Question 11** Image from: Hidalgo, L. (2018). *Chile protest* (ID: 18157774591098). Retrieved May, 2020, from <http://www.apimages.com/metadata/index/chile-protest/407a075652c745f49a3a4a069b8c386f/50/0>
- Question 13** Quote from: Thompson, H. S. (1998). *Fear and loathing in Las Vegas: A savage journey to the heart of the American dream* (2nd ed.). New York: Vintage Books, p. 40.
- Question 14** Natalie. (2010). [Photograph of person climbing treehouse] Retrieved May, 2020, from [http://3.bp.blogspot.com/\\_juqkr0mf1tU/S8E2KTRW\\_6I/AAAAAAAAAv4/ZrDWM0cjZkE/s1600/P4080015.JPG](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_juqkr0mf1tU/S8E2KTRW_6I/AAAAAAAAAv4/ZrDWM0cjZkE/s1600/P4080015.JPG)

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