

# Scottish Set Text

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Higher

# What is Scottish Set Text ?

As you would have done in Nat 5 Scottish set text consists of a piece of literature. You will study these texts carefully, thinking about features appropriate to genre and the themes or issues presented to you by the writer. You will be using the QTA format (Question, Technique and Analysis) to answer these questions. The Scottish set text paper is 20 marks, within the paper you should demonstrate the following skills:

- analysis of language (word choice, figurative language, sentence structure, tone, punctuation, sound, etc)
- analysis of characterisation
- understanding/analysis of theme
- analysis of how a writer achieves a particular effect or mood or atmosphere, etc
- analysis of overall text structure inferring meaning from what is implied by the writer
- evaluation of the writer's techniques or overall impact of the extract
- understanding and analysis of the remainder of the text or other texts

At higher level you will be awarded one mark for each QTA you do. (e.g. if the question is worth 4 marks then you will do 4 QTA's) You may be awarded two marks for one QTA which is extremely in-depth and relevant to the question. (e.g. if the question asks for 4 marks then you could do 2 QTA's which are in-depth and give the relevant information and marks for the question).



Answer structure

Quotation: ...

Technique: ...

Analysis: ...

# Higher Scottish set text

Scottish set text at higher requires a much more in-depth understanding of the text and literary techniques used to make the text effective and captivating. It typically contains more analysis questions than you would find in the National 5 paper. There are hints and tips within the exam paper, trigger words to help you understand what the question is asking of you. For example:

- **Analyse** the writer's use of...
- **How...**
- With reference to **features of language** used by the writer...
- **Show how** the **techniques** used...

(notice how the words highlighted act as trigger words to show you it is an analysis question)

When you know what you are dealing with it makes it easier to understand and answer the question. Once you have identified the question you need to start thinking about techniques.

It is important to note that at Higher you will not be awarded marks for quoting like you did in Nat 5 so be sure to remember your quotes. However, if you do forget them, you could still be awarded the marks for describing in detail what happens in scene, then analyse.



# 10 marker questions

At Higher you will complete a 10 marker question which is fundamentally the same as Nat 5 (commonality, from the extract, from elsewhere) except the marking scheme is much different.

A question worth 10 marks might seem daunting at first. However, it might help you to think about how the marks are secured:

- 2 marks will be awarded for commonality (ie. stating clearly what is similar about the texts/aspects of the text you are comparing)
- 2 marks will be available for quoting/referencing the extract and then analysing its significance
- 6 marks will be available from quoting/referencing from elsewhere/another text studied and analysing the significance



# Example question

Identify two techniques used by Byrne to convey the monotony and explain how these techniques do so. (4 marks)

Quotation: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Technique: \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_

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Quotation: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Technique: \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_

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(REPEAT TWO MORE TIMES)

# Slab Boys: Scottish Set Text

When I was doing Higher English last year our Scottish set text was a play called The Slab Boys by John Byrne. *(the italics is the basic plot summary)*. In the Slab Boys we explored many themes such as rebellion vs conformity, humour, social class and many more. For your Scottish set text you will be asked to analyse language, attitude and themes. On the next slide is an example of what our scottish set text paper looked like last year. This will give you an insight into what the questions are and what they are asking you to do.

*The Slab Boys by John Byrne is set in the slab room of A.F. Stobo and Co. Carpet Manufacturers in Paisley. A Slab Boy's job would be to mix the colours for the dye used in making carpets.*

*The play takes place over the course of one Friday in 1957.*

*The action of this play is built around the lives of a range of employees in the factory.*

*Although we meet various characters (ie. the supervisors, the middle-class interns etc) the real focus of the play falls on the young working-class Slab Boys*

*We realise early in the play that they are each bored with their menial job in the slab room.*

*The play gives us an insight into their dreams, aspirations and plans to get out of the Slab Room.*

*The play also shows us the strategies the boys use to escape their often miserable realities.*

*If nothing else, this play is about being a teenager and having fun with your pals.*

# Example of a Scottish set text paper

1. Look at lines 1—15.

Explain fully the contrast in these lines between the **attitude** of Jack and Phil towards Alan. **(2)**

2. Look at lines 16—31.

By referring to at least two examples, analyse **how the tension** between Phil and Spanky is **made clear**. **(4)**

3. Look at lines 32—55.

By referring to at least two examples, analyse **how language is used to convey the feelings** of Phil and/or Curry. **(4)**

4. In this extract, various aspects of Phil's character are revealed through humour. By referring to this extract and elsewhere in the play, discuss **how humour is used to develop Phil's character**. **(10)**



# Conclusion

I hope you understand about what Higher English requires of you and what you will have to put into your scottish set text papers. I also hope you realise that as daunting as it may appear it is extremely interesting an becomes easier once you understand what the questions are asking of you. I hope you enjoy Higher English as much as I did.

