

## Past IB HL Exam Questions

1 "It is impossible for literature to be completely objective." How, and to what extent, does this statement apply to **two** or **three** works you have studied?

"Memory feeds imagination." To what effect has memory been used in **two** or **three** works you have studied?

"It is the role of literature to challenge and confront the conventional values of a society." In what ways, and to what extent, have conventional values been challenged in **two** or **three** works you have studied?

Some writers present a world view that is pessimistic and disorderly, while others present a world of hope and possibility. How, and to what extent, do your writers reflect these views in **two** or **three** works you have studied?

Literature is often about crossing boundaries, both physically and mentally. In what ways, and to what extent, does the crossing of boundaries contribute to **two** or **three** works you have studied?

"The art of the storyteller is to hold the attention of the reader." With reference to **two** or **three** works you have studied, discuss ways in which the writers have employed techniques that hold your attention.

"Mirror or X-Ray or lamp?" Which of these terms do you think best describes the way writers in your study have represented the world? In each case examine how this effect is achieved, using **two** or **three** works you have studied.

Compare the ways that the treatment of time has been used to shape meaning in **two** or **three** works you have studied.

"Some authors prefer to write about 'the real world', while others prefer to be unhindered by the restrictions of reality." Discussing **two** or **three** works, show how the writer's preference helps convey the ideas of the works.

10 Evaluate the effectiveness of devices used to represent internal states of mind in **two** or **three** works of fiction you have studied.

"The real purpose of fiction is to give pleasure by satisfying the reader's love of the uncommon in human experience... but the uncommonness must be in the events, not in the characters."

Discuss how far this 'recipe' for fiction – combining unusual events with recognizable characters – is relevant to **two** or **three** works you have studied.

In what ways and to what effect have writers in your study made use of illustrative elements such as anecdotes, analogies, allusions and the like in their works?

"A writer conveys not only experiences but a whole world in which these are possible." With respect to **two** or **three** works you have studied, discuss whether the author has created a coherent, imagined "world".

"Works of literature are often layered, and may require close attention to discover their depth and complexity." With respect to **two** or **three** of the works you have studied, show how valid this view is.

"Art is on the side of the oppressed." Evaluate the means by which **two** or **three** works in your study either confirm or raise questions about the validity of this assertion.

"The characters of a novel can only be individualised if they are set in a background of particularised time and place."

How important is the setting of a particular time and/or place to the development of the characters? Refer in detail to **at least two** novels or short stories.

"My own preference is for a story that is kaleidoscopic, with a number of different voices rather than one character speaking for the entire novel or short story." Focussing on single and/or multiple voices, discuss the effects of viewpoint in the **two** or **three** novels or short stories you have studied.

18 Writers make many deliberate choices in the course of creating their works. Considering one or two stylistic aspects, compare the

