

General Certificate of Education
June 2005
Advanced Subsidiary Examination

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
(SPECIFICATION A)
Unit 1 Language Production**

NTA1



Tuesday 24 May 2005 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is NTA1.
- Answer **both** questions.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 150.
- Question 1 carries 100 marks, and Question 2 carries 50 marks.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

Answer **both** questions.

1 Your task is to write a review for a magazine or newspaper of your choice on **one** of the following:

- A film
- An exhibition
- A theatre performance
- A music performance
- A TV programme

You should specify the type of publication in which your review will appear.

You are advised to write approximately 300 – 400 words.

Text A is an example of review writing and is provided to give you ideas about how you *could* approach this task.

(100 marks)

2 Write a commentary which explains the choices that you made in your writing.

You should consider the following:

- your vocabulary and style in relation to the audience and purpose for your writing
- the content and structure of your text.

(50 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

Text A

Watching Tommy Lee Jones come hulking out of the darkness in the trailer for Ron Howard's new Western *The Missing*, you could be forgiven for thinking the film was a ghost story. Jones looks like a witch doctor; there is an air of supernatural menace. It is an effective trailer, but it isn't quite the film you end up seeing.

Maggie (Cate Blanchett) is a tough woman running a ranch in New Mexico. When her eldest daughter is kidnapped by Apache she finds herself having to rely on her hated father, Samuel (Jones), a distant figure whose walkabouts in Indian territory and belief in ancient superstitions are rather at odds with Maggie's ascetic Christianity.

The Missing is essentially a chase movie. Maggie and Samuel ride hard behind the Apache to catch them before they cross into Mexico where they will sell the girl into prostitution. Along the way, as they share camp fires, father and daughter effect the kind of reconciliation that moviegoers love – he gets the chance to apologise for having abandoned her when she was a child, she becomes more mellow as she deals with her demons.

Howard has always liked populist themes. Films like *Apollo 13* and *A Beautiful Mind* are textbook exercises in how to push the right buttons to get warm fuzzy emotions out of punters. On the surface *The Missing* appears far darker and equivocal than the director's other output, but the window dressing of frontier hardship promised in the opening scene – in which Blanchett is seen going to a filthy toilet in a rotten shack – fails to materialise and once the gunplay has passed what is left is a story with little real emotional punch.

The Missing is certainly not a bad film but it is not as interesting or different as it might like to think. It goes without saying that its probable reference point, *The Searchers*, John Ford's classic kidnapped child western, is far superior. Ford's trick was to short circuit the inevitable anticlimax that would have resulted when John Wayne finds his niece and make it clear that he seeks her in order to kill rather than rescue her.

The Searchers succeeded because it ended by asking more questions than it answered. *The Missing* ties things up a little too neatly. Still, if his story fails to chime, at least Howard offers us something worthwhile visually. The photography that brings to life the wintry skies of New Mexico is extremely beautiful.

END OF TEXTS

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE

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Text A: Simon Barnett — *The Big Issue in the North*.

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