**IB DP Self-Taught Literature**

**Part 3 – Genres**

**Paper 2: Essay**

**Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**Weighting: 25%**

*The essay on at least two works from one literary genre requires students to show understanding of the works and the way in which meaning is conveyed through literary conventions.*

*Students are required to synthesize ideas from at least two works and to apply that knowledge to a question on conventions used in one literary genre.*

**Description:**

Paper 2 contains THREE (3) essay questions for EACH literary genre represented on the PLA of the language A being examined (ex: Novels, Poetry, Drama, etc.).

Students answer ONE (1) essay question only.

The essay is written under examination conditions, without access to the studied texts.

Each question directs students to explore the ways in which content is delivered through the conventions of the selected genre.

Students are required to compare and contrast the similarities and differences between at least two of the works studied in part 3 of the course.

The maximum mark for paper 2 is 25.

While reading your texts for part 3, you should keep notes on key areas, including:

* Themes
* Characters – major & minor
* Character relationships
* Conflicts
* Plot & Structure - Chronology/timeline
* Narrator & POV
* Settings
* Characteristics of the genre & how they are used or subverted/altered
* Writer’s language & style
* Symbols & Imagery
* Themes
* Contextual links
* Author’s background/biography

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR PAPER 2**

There are five assessment criteria at SL:

Criterion A: Knowledge and understanding 5 marks

Criterion B: Response to the question 5 marks

Criterion C: Appreciation of the literary conventions of the genre 5 marks

Criterion D: Organization and development 5 marks

Criterion E: Language 5 marks

Total 25 marks

*See Criteria details provided.*

SAMPLE PAST PAPER 2 EXAM – FOR PRACTICE

* **NOTE:** these questions vary each year; these are just meant to give you a sense of the types of questions you will encounter on your paper 2 exam, and allow you to revise and plan sample essays

INSTRUCTIONS:

*Answer one essay question only. You must base your answer on at least two of the Part 3 works you have*

*studied. You may include in your answer a discussion of a Part 2 work of the same genre if relevant.*

*Answers which are not based on a discussion of at least two Part 3 works will not score high marks.*

**Drama**

1. Referring closely to at least two of the works in your study show to what extent and in what ways

dramatists use the irrational behaviour of their characters to further the action of their plays.

2. Is action that happens off-stage as important as that which happens on the stage? Refer closely to

at least two of the works you have studied.

**Poetry**

3. Referring closely to the work of at least two poets you have studied, write about the importance

of structure.

4. Discuss the ways in which at least two poets you have studied have used the imagery of light and/or

colour in their works.

**Prose: The Novel and Short Story**

5. Paying close attention to detail in at least two of the works in your study, explain why the authors

have used either chronological or non-chronological approaches to their narrative.

6. To what extent and in what ways has the concept of escape played a role in at least two of the works

you have studied?

**Prose: Other than the Novel and Short Story**

7. Discuss the ways in which at least two of the works you have studied are concerned with the

exploration of aspects of corruption and/or decay.

8. To what extent and in what ways does your response to the works you have studied depend on your

identification with the narrator? Refer closely to at least two works in your answer.

**General Questions on Literature**

9. “I am the master of my fate.” To what extent and in what ways does the literature you have read

depict characters who are, or are not, in control of their fate? Refer closely to at least two of the works you have studied in your answer.

10. Referring closely to at least two of the works you have studied, show to what extent and in what

ways writers have made use of the contrast or similarity between exterior and interior settings.