

## HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL



**NOVEMBER 2015**

**ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE**

**Grade 11**

**PAPER 1**

**Time: 2 hours**

**Marks: 70**

N.B. This question paper consists of 14 pages

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS**

1. The question paper consists of **THREE** sections.

<b>SECTION A: COMPREHENSION</b>	<b>30 marks</b>
<b>SECTION B: SUMMARY</b>	<b>10 marks</b>
<b>SECTION C: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT</b>	<b>30 marks</b>

2. You are required to answer **ALL** questions

3. Use the following time frames as a guideline:

SECTION A: 50 minutes  
SECTION B: 25 minutes  
SECTION C: 45 minutes

## **INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

1. Draw a 2cm wide margin on the right-hand side of each page of your answer booklet.
2. Number each response as it is numbered on the question paper.
3. Leave a line after each answer.
4. Rule off on completion of EACH section.
5. Start each question on a **new** page
6. Answer in full sentences.
7. Write neatly and legibly.
8. Pay special attention to spelling and sentence construction.

**SECTION A: COMPREHENSION**  
**QUESTION 1: READING FOR MEANING AND UNDERSTANDING**

Carefully read the passage below and answer the set questions.

TEXT A

**ROBIN'S FINAL ACT**

(Adapted from *You*, 15 September 2015.)

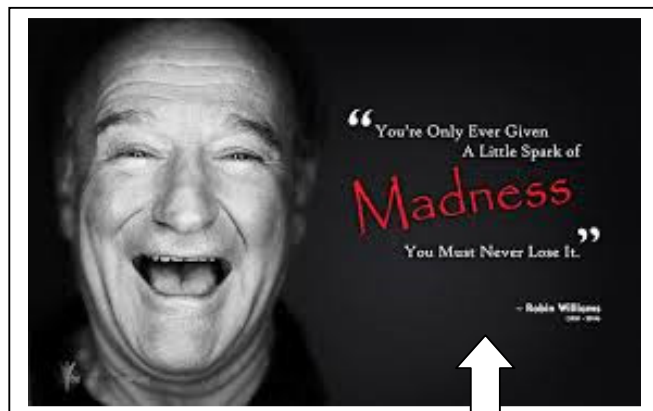
- 1 It was a bright February afternoon on Hollywood Boulevard. In front of me was a red carpet, TV cameras on cranes and a procession of the world's most famous people. The 2004 Academy Awards were about to begin.
- 2 I'd been standing there for only a minute or two, when I heard an intimidatingly posh accent: "Christopher! Christopher Ayres! Over here!"
- 3 And there he was, standing in front of me: Robin Williams. Looking frankly ridiculous in a knee-length coat, he had broken away from the pack and for some reason sought me out.
- 4 "Ah, *The Times* of London!" he exclaimed, still in his hoity-toity accent, as he squinted at my laminated badge. (That's where he got my name, I realised.) He grinned. "Just observing, are we? You look as though you're having Very Important Thoughts."
- 5 The sight of a balding, aloof-looking Englishman standing there alone, notebook in hand, had obviously appealed to his sense of absurdity. Then off he skipped, quite literally.
- 6 It was perhaps this surreal encounter that made his death a year ago at age 63, feel so unsettling and profoundly sad.
- 7 By most accounts Robin was in the midst of a severe bout of paranoia and depression. Yet that didn't make his final act any easier to comprehend. He had been happily married. He had three healthy children. He was loved by his fans. And when he took his life, he did so amid the serenity of his \$6-million home in a pristinely beautiful suburb that overlooks San Francisco Bay.
- 8 There is the claim – (true, according to the coroner's report) that Robin had been given a misdiagnosis of Parkinson's disease, but this comes with a caveat: the actor was instead suffering from a similar and arguably even more cruel disease: dementia with Lewy bodies or DLB – an incurable, degenerative condition involving abnormal clumping in the brain of a protein known as alpha-synuclein, that causes tremors, hallucinations, concentration problems and sleep disorders. Life expectancy is about eight years.
- 9 His dementia seems to have been over-looked in the popular imagination, which has cast the actor as the stereotypical depressive comedian who falls victim to his own artistic temperament and abnormally high IQ - a gross oversimplification, at best. At worst, it risks distracting from the seriousness of the little-understood DLB...
- 10 What is more, there is a case to be made that the pills he was taking for Parkinson's – a disease he did not have – may have worsened his true condition and played a role in his suicide. In short, the actor's decision to end his life may not have been entirely his own.
- 11 None of this is to suggest Robin did not live constantly on the precipice of various

- debilitating mood disorders – his wife, Susan (50), explained candidly how he had suffered from depression, anxiety and paranoia for most of his life. 35
- 12 It seems there was also a fundamental loneliness at the heart of the man. Raised as an only child, he spent much of his childhood alone in a mansion with no one but his 2000 toy soldiers to play with.
- 13 Before his big opportunity came, Robin shared a room with future Superman actor Christopher Reeve at The Juilliard School for Performing Arts in New York. Then Robin was invited to audition for the part of an extra-terrestrial named Mork in *Happy Days*. When the producers asked him to make himself comfortable, Robin – dressed in rainbow braces for the occasion – sat on his head, as an alien might. The job was his. 40
- 14 By the age of 28, Robin was one of the most famous men in America. He did not behave like someone at ease with himself, however. Married three times, he often cheated on his wives – first on Valerie Velardi, with a cocktail waitress. Then he took up with the nanny, Marsha Garces. They eventually married. 45
- 15 In 2004, Robin’s heart began to fail, forcing him to undergo heart surgery. When asked how it felt to survive such a close call, he joked, “You appreciate the little things ... like walks on the beach with a defibrillator.” 50
- 16 In 2011 he was told he had Parkinson’s disease.
- 17 We now know that on the evening of 10 August, Robin entered his stepson’s bathroom, made superficial cuts on his left wrist with a pocketknife then used a cloth to wipe up the blood. And we know he locked the bedroom door. 55
- 18 The next morning, Susan (Robin’s third wife, 13 years his junior), left to run errands, assuming Robin was still asleep. Half an hour later the actor’s assistant of 20 years, Rebecca Spencer, arrived. Concerned at the unusual silence from the room, she slipped a note under the door, asking if he was okay. No response.
- 19 Finally at 11.42 am, Rebecca picked the lock with a paperclip – and found Williams unresponsive. He had used a black nylon belt to hang himself 60
- 20 Brain tissue samples showed the extent of the damage to the actor’s brain. The analysis concluded with a diagnosis of DLB, while noting that Parkinson’s shares many of the same characteristics such as body spasms and slurring. The lab tests also found evidence of Alzheimer’s. 65
- 21 Does this mean the distress he suffered in his final weeks was being heightened by drugs he was taking for the wrong disease? It is an upsetting – and deeply ironic – thought. Indeed, as far as I am concerned, Robin did not take his own life: it was the dementia that killed him.

## TEXT B

If there is any consolation to be found in his death, it is that Robin loved nothing more than to find humour in horrors and the absurd. I recall an interview with him just after Christopher Reeve’s death, in which he said, “Life’s a tragedy to those who feel and a comedy to those who think.” He went on to describe a group therapy session with Christopher and other paraplegics, during which a woman told a harrowing story of how she’d seen her dog having a heart attack, had tried to give it mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, hyperventilated, then fallen off her balcony, shattering her spine. “The thing that made all the paraplegics laugh,” said a clearly amused Robin, “ was that the dog died.”

TEXT C



" You're Only Ever Given  
A Little Spark of  
**Madness**  
You Must Never Lose It."  
Robin Williams

TEXT D

"For me comedy starts as a spew, a kind of explosion, and then you sculpt it from there, if at all. It comes out of a deeper, darker side. Maybe it comes from anger, because I'm outraged by cruel absurdities, the hypocrisy that exists everywhere, even within yourself, where it's hardest to

QUESTIONS

- 1.1 Paragraph 1  
Where did the writer meet Williams? 1
- 1.2 Paragraph 2 to 4  
How did the writer react to the meeting with Williams? Why? 2
- 1.3 Paragraph 7  
Why was Williams's act of suicide so difficult to understand? 2
- 1.4 Paragraph 8  
What was actually wrong with Williams? 2
- 1.5 Paragraph 9  
Explain what the majority of people have chosen to believe about Williams's reasons for suicide in your own words. 2
- 1.6 Paragraph 11 and 12  
What does the writer mean when he uses the words 'precipice of various debilitating mood disorders'? 2
- 1.7 Paragraph 12  
Give a synonym for 'fundamental'. 1
- 1.8 Paragraph 13  
Why was Williams given the role of Mork? Use your own words to explain. 2
- 1.9 Paragraph 15  
Explain the humour in the joke 'You ... defibrillator'. 2

- 1.10 Paragraph 20  
Comment on the tragedy of Williams's health in his final years. Consider its impact on his career and life in your answer. 3
- 1.11 Paragraph 21  
Explain the irony in this paragraph. 2
- 1.12 Discuss and comment on the appropriateness of the title of this article. 2
- Refer to TEXT B
- 1.13 Why was Williams amused by this story? 2
- Refer to TEXT C
- 1.14 Do you agree with Williams's statement on 'Madness'? Give reasons for your response. 2
- Refer to TEXT D
- 1.15 Can this comment by Williams be construed as a reflection of the man or merely a reflection of the comedian? Discuss 3
- TOTAL SECTION A [30]**

**SECTION B: SUMMARY**

**QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

- Summarise the advice given to students in the article in one fluent paragraph.
- Your summary should include seven points and not exceed 90 words
- You are NOT required to include a title for your summary.
- Indicate the final word count accurately at the end of your summary.

TEXT E

**The 27 Club**

The "27 Club" or "Club 27" is the colloquial name given to a group of influential rock musicians who died at the young age of 27. Another term for this club-that-nobody-wants-to-join is the Forever 27 club. Though the official causes of death for these famous people vary between the different musicians - from suicide to overdoses on sleeping pills to, yes, choking to death on vomit - drug and alcohol abuse is often cited as a primary cause behind many of these deaths. Everyone on this list will never turn 28 – they will be forever 27.

Controversy still swirls around the death of Nirvana front man Kurt Cobain who, on April 8, 1994, was found dead (by an electrician) in his Lake Washington home. The coroner's report estimated Cobain's date of death to be around April 5 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Long troubled with drugs and alcohol, Amy Winehouse was found dead in her London home on July 23, 2011 and it would later be revealed that she had died of an alcohol overdose. At the time of her death, Winehouse's blood alcohol content was .416, far beyond any legal or recommended limits.

An overdose of barbiturates in the form of nine prescription sleeping pills is said to have caused rock guitar legend Jimi Hendrix to asphyxiate on his own vomit, killing him on the morning of September 18, 1970. He had been found unconscious in a London flat.

Janis Joplin, the legendary singer-songwriter who started with the psychedelic-acid rock band Big Brother and the Holding Company and would later go on to perform as a solo act with her own backing groups, died of an assumed heroin overdose on October 4, 1970. The OD, influenced by alcohol and what is thought to be a particularly potent batch of heroin that incited several other overdoses, felled the singer in her Hollywood house.

Though an official police report depicts Doors front man, Jim Morrison, as having died in a bathtub of a heroin overdose, myriad other versions of the singer's death exist, including accounts that he accidentally snorted some of girlfriend Pamela Courson's heroin - having mistaken it for cocaine - and died from this accidental ingestion. Regardless of the exact method, Morrison died on July 3, 1971.

One of the original founders of The Rolling Stones, frontman Brian Jones, was quickly overshadowed by the team of Keith Richards and Mick Jagger and subsequently developed a drug problem that would lead to his dismissal from the group in June 1969. Less than a month later on July 3, Jones was found on the bottom of his pool - his death was entered as a drowning - "death by misadventure".

*Source Ranker.com*

**TOTAL SECTION B**

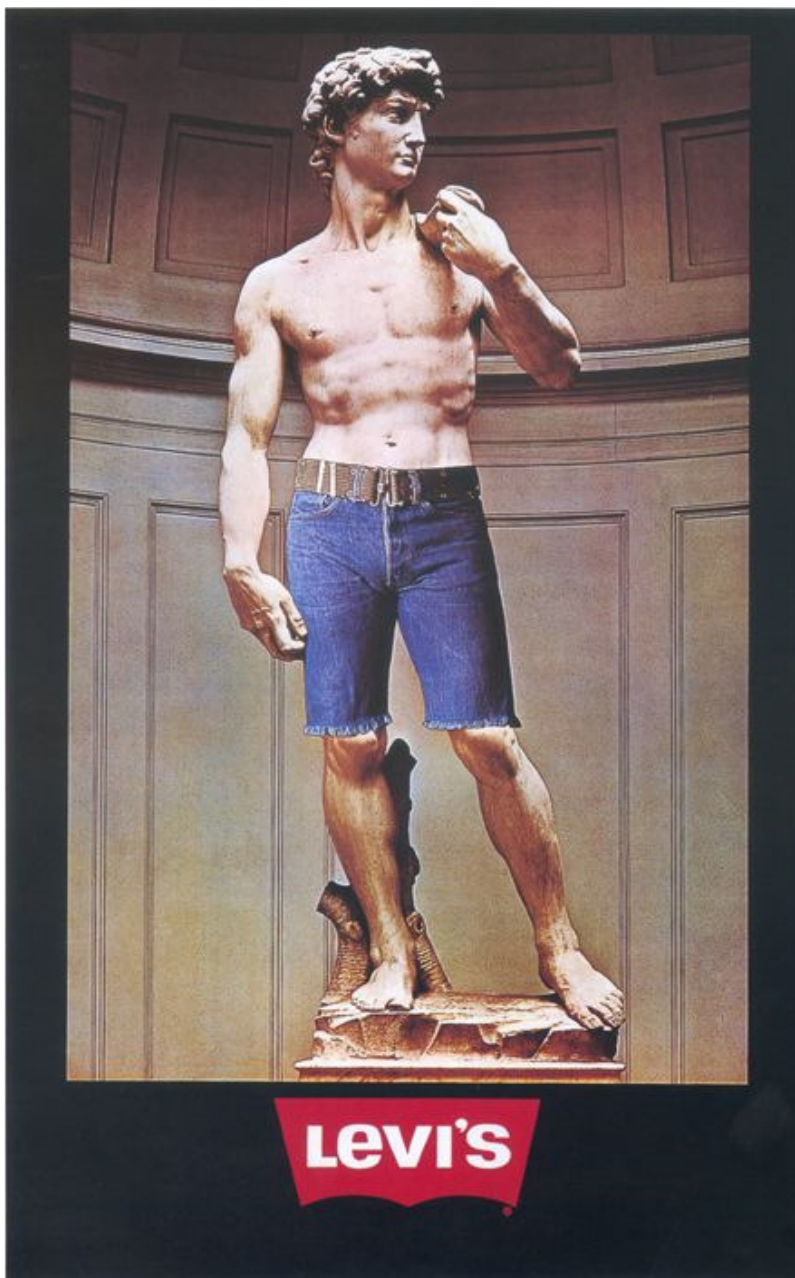
**[10]**

**SECTION C: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT**

**QUESTION 3: ANALYSING ADVERTISING**

Study the following advertisements (Texts F, G and H) and then answer the questions set:

TEXT F



QUESTIONS

3.1 Explain how the above advertisement promotes the product in a humorous way. 2

TEXT G



QUESTIONS

- 3.2 Identify the well-known models in Text F and Text G. 1
- 3.3 What brand is being marketed in Text G? 1
- 3.4 *Write down the question number and the number of the correct answer.*
- 'Bend it like Beckham' is :
- A a slogan
  - B a logo
  - C text
  - D the subject
  - E layout 1
- 3.5 Who is the target market for Text G? Make reference to the graphic and the copy/text in your response. 2

TEXT H



QUESTIONS

3.6 In what way does the visual highlight the text?

3

[10]

**QUESTION 4: UNDERSTANDING OTHER ASPECTS OF MEDIA**  
**OPINION AND ANALYSIS**

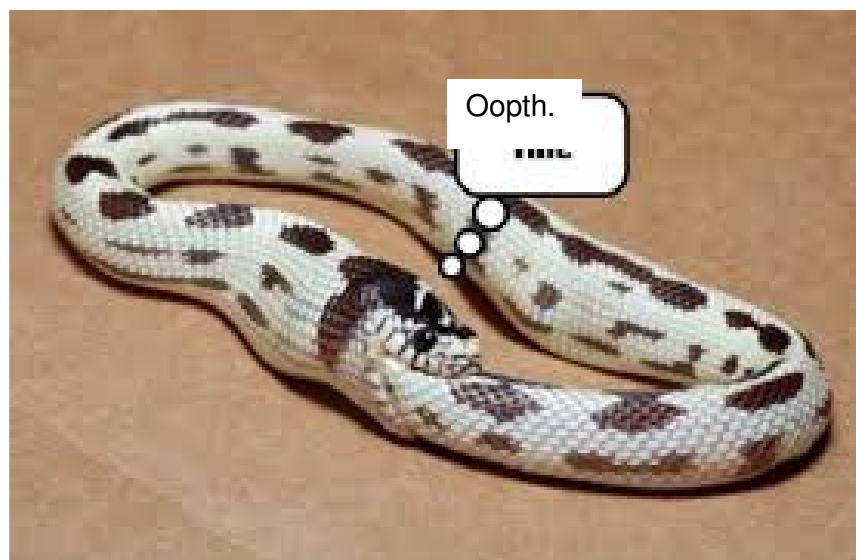
TEXT I



4.1 Explain the humour in this cartoon.

3

TEXT J

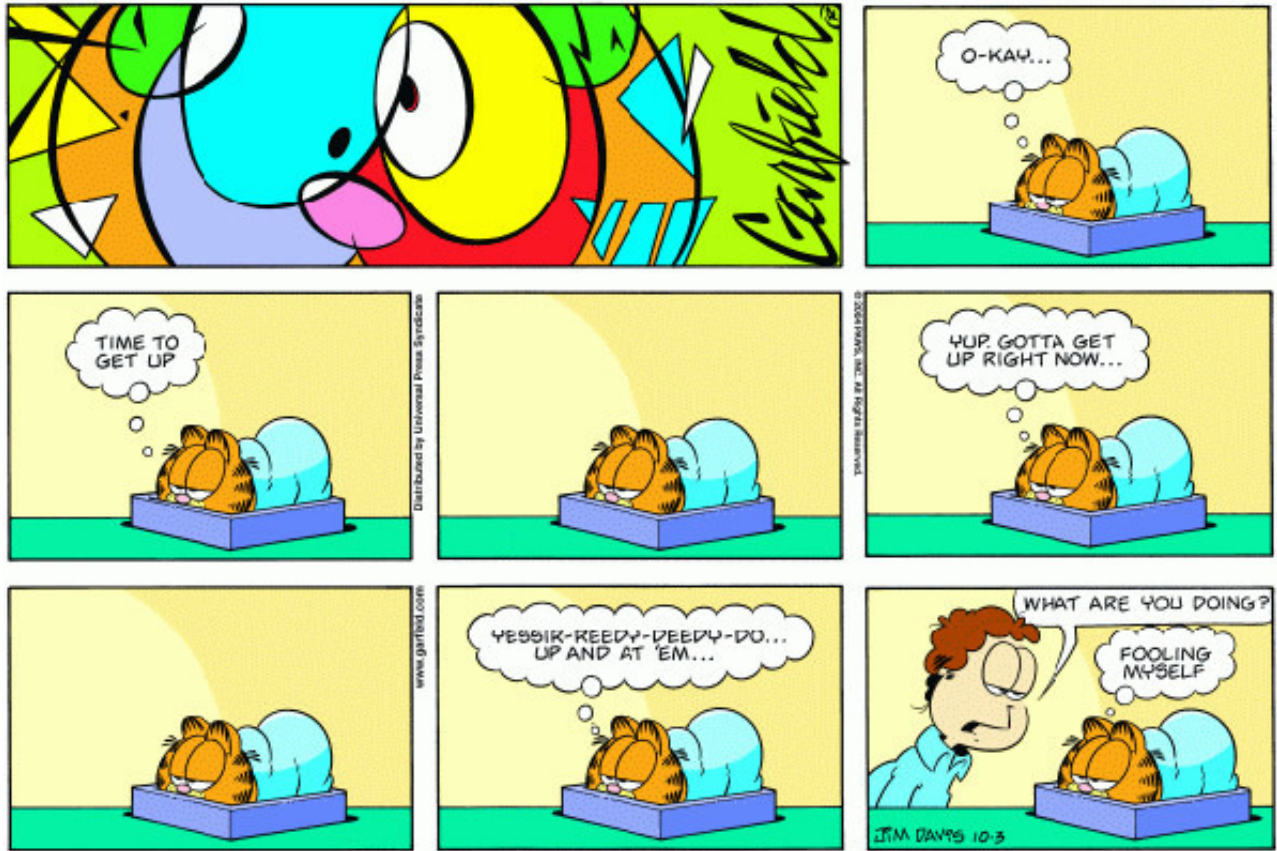


Reference: [collapseofindustrialcivilization.com](http://collapseofindustrialcivilization.com)

4.2 What is the cartoonist saying about modern-day civilisation in this satirical cartoon?

2

TEXT K



- 4.3 This cartoon deals with a situation which is familiar to most of us. Discuss. 2
- 4.4 John asks a rhetorical question in the last frame. How we know this is a rhetorical question? Refer to the cartoon in your answer. 2
- 4.5 Suggest another response that Garfield could have given to John's question. 1

[10]

**QUESTION 5: USING LANGUAGE CORRECTLY**



*(Continued on the next page)*

## TEXT M

- 1 A **black comedy** (or **dark comedy**) is a comic work that employs farce and morbid humour, which, in its simplest form, is humour that makes light of subject matter usually considered taboo. Black comedy is often controversial due to its subject matter.
- 2 The term black humour (from the French *humour noir*) was coined by the surrealist theoretician André Breton in 1935 to name a subgenre of comedy and satire, in which laughter arises from cynicism and scepticism, often relying on topics such as death. 5
- 3 Breton credited Jonathon Swift as the originator of black humour and gallows humour and cites examples in which the wit arises from a victim with which the audience empathizes, as is more typical in the tradition of gallows humour and examples, in which the comedy is used to mock the victim. This victim's suffering is trivialized, which leads to sympathizing with the victimizer. Black humour is related to the grotesque genre. 10
- 4 The terms black comedy or dark comedy was later copied as alternatives to Breton's term. In black humour, topics and events that are usually regarded as taboo are treated in an unusually humorous or satirical manner while retaining their seriousness - the intent of black comedy, therefore, is often for the audience to experience both laughter and discomfort, sometimes simultaneously. 15
- 5 Among the writers labelled as black humorists by journalists and literary critics are Roald Dahl, Thomas Pynchon, Joseph Heller and Philip Roth. The motive for applying the label black humorist to these writers is that they have written novels, poems, stories, plays, and songs in which profound or horrific events were portrayed in a comic manner. 20
- 6 The purpose of black comedy is to make light of serious and often taboo subject matter; some comedians use it as a tool for exploring vulgar issues, thus provoking discomfort and serious thought as well as amusement in their audience. Popular themes of the genre include murder, suicide, depression, war, religion, drug abuse, terminal illness, insanity, racism, sexism, disability (both physical and mental), terrorism, political corruption and crime.. 25
- 7 By contrast, blue comedy focuses more on crude topics such as nudity, sex, and bodily functions. Black comedy is different from straightforward obscenity in that it is more subtle and does not necessarily have the clear intention of offending people. In obscene humour, much of the humorous element comes from shock and revulsion, while black comedy might include an element of irony, or even fatalism. 30
- 8 Black comedy is commonly used in dramatic or satirical films, retaining its serious tone and working as a tool of many films, television shows, and video games. Stanley Kubrick's 1964 film *Dr Strangelove* presents one of the best-known examples of black comedy. The subject of the film is nuclear warfare and the possible annihilation of life on Earth. Normally, dramas about nuclear war treat the subject with gravity and seriousness, creating suspense over the efforts to avoid a nuclear war, but *Dr. Strangelove* instead plays the subject for laughs. For example, in the film the fail-safe procedures designed to prevent a nuclear war are precisely the systems that ensure that it will happen. 35
- 9 Modern examples of black comedy in film include: *Pulp Fiction*, a 1994 crime film of three intertwining gangster stories and *Horrible Bosses*, a 2011 film about three men who resolve to murder their respective, overbearing bosses. These films, though mostly critically and commercially successful, were met with criticism for their politically incorrect subject matter. 40

## QUESTIONS

5.1 Refer to Text L and explain the humour in 'Dead End'

2

(Continued on the next page)

- 5.2 Give an antonym for 'morbid'. (line 1) 1
- 5.3 Paragraph 1  
What is the function of the brackets? 1
- 5.4 Paragraph 3  
Identify the punctuation mark in '**victim's suffering**' 1
- 5.5 Paragraph 4  
Correct the concord error. (Re-write the sentence.) 1
- 5.6 Paragraph 5 and 6  
Name the parts of speech in the context of the passage: (*Write down the word and the answer.*)  
A Pynchon  
B black 2
- 5.7 What is the function of the punctuation mark used in 'novels, poems, stories, plays, and songs'?' 1
- 5.8 Paragraph 6  
Explain why this is a compound sentence : 1  
'The purpose of black comedy is to make light of serious and often taboo subject matter and some comedians use it as a tool for exploring vulgar issues.'
- [10]

**TOTAL FOR SECTION C: 30**

**Total for Paper: 70 marks**