

STUDENT'S NAME:.....

ENGLISH TEACHER'S INITIALS:.....

**BBA PRACTICE EXAMINATION
2016**

**ENGLISH
Level Three**

RESOURCE BOOKLET

91474 (3.3)

**Respond critically to significant aspects of unfamiliar written texts
through close reading, supported by evidence.**

Credits: Four

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for English 91474 (3.3).

Check that this booklet has pages 2-3 and that none of these pages is blank.

HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE ASSESSMENT.

Text A: PROSE

Our own worst enemies

All around the Arctic Circle, rising temperatures are giving rise to massive burps of methane. The recorded incidence of these emissions has soared over the last five years. This is seriously alarming information, because methane is a much more dangerous “greenhouse gas” than carbon-dioxide.

5 The rising emissions of methane from the rapidly warming Arctic Ocean are but the feeble harbingers of the vast amounts of methane trapped in the planet’s permafrost. Gigatons of the gas will be released into the atmosphere as Earth’s hitherto frozen soil gives up its riches. The world faces “runaway” global warming of 5°C and upwards by the end of this century.

10 A temperature rise of that rapidity and magnitude is not survivable – not by a human population numbering in excess of 7 billion. Runaway global warming will cause the Greenland and Antarctica ice-sheets to melt. When that happens the seas and oceans will rise by metres, not centimetres, profoundly reshaping the world’s landmasses. Civilisation, as we know it, will end.

15 Regions which now produce a large percentage of the planet’s food surpluses will become arid and infertile. The glacial sources of many of the world’s great rivers will disappear. Very quickly water will become more valuable than oil, and men will kill each other with ever increasing ferocity to control it. Famine, Pestilence and War will raise their reeking banners above a sweltering earth. Billions will perish.

Could we have prevented this? Was the current unfolding climate catastrophe ever avoidable?

20 Probably not. The human animal is not very good at dealing with slow-moving threats. The slightest tremor in the leaves, the faintest rustle of crushed leaf-litter, and your average homo-sapiens is instantly alert, chipped flint spearhead, or rifle, in hand. Humankind’s evolutionary programming has equipped it superbly to handle immediate and short-term threats to its survival. Long-term threats, however, are much harder to resist, not least because the measures required to meet these less-than-imminent dangers will, themselves, be perceived as immediate and/or short-term threats!

As a species, we have evolved the intelligence to perceive long-term threats, but not the wisdom to come together and do what is necessary to eliminate them.

25 Faced with the imminent danger of being overwhelmed by Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, the United States of America was prepared to direct (or take over) private enterprises, impose strict controls on the operation of the market, raise billions through higher taxes and the sale of war bonds, and require its citizens to restrict dramatically their consumption of fossil fuels. To free up resources for the war effort, neighbourhood “war gardens” were promoted and radical recycling measures made mandatory.

30 If, from the moment the world’s scientists agreed that it was real, the US Government had treated the threat of man-made global warming as the “moral equivalent of war”, the planet might have been spared.

35 Better still, if the nations of the world had truly united in the aftermath of World War II; if, instead of waging a Cold War against one another, the USA and the USSR had jointly waged a war against want, ignorance and disease; then maybe the peoples of the planet would have developed the wisdom necessary to avoid the catastrophe being cooked-up by their industrial civilization’s relentless pursuit of economic growth and material consumption. If, in exploring the solar system, the world’s peoples had grown accustomed to thinking of their planet as a unique and fragile ark, carrying through the void of space everything they hold dear, then perhaps, just perhaps, humanity could have rung the changes necessary for its own survival.

40 Only the world’s scientists understand the width of the gulf between the extinction level event seriousness of anthropogenic global warming, and those whose will and resources are required to, at best, soften its impact.

Source: ‘Our Own Worst Enemies’ (adapted), Chris Trotter, Bowalley Road (blog), accessed 8/12/2015.

Text B: POETRY

*The Motherlode**

We put on our identities as consumers to enter Enzed's dairy kingdom,
with its casino trickle of coins.

We put on our identities as citizens to debate the moral absolute
of water, the commons where the water is.

- 5 Sixty per cent of all water used in the nation is used in Canterbury,
and much of it for irrigation.

So here come the corporations, the speculators, the anonymous
investors to join the primary producers

- 10 converted to the conversion of farms to dairying land,
as if the dairy milk bubble might always expand,
and water be abstracted so that milk goes on sloshing into vats
in a glorious hundred-year plan.

Where thousands of moa once stalked, cows now move to stand,
big bladders on legs, bagpipes of udders in sway.

- 15 Out they come, crowding onto the paddock at more than two grand
a pop, dozens then hundreds, then by the thousand.

Impregnated by machine, to be milked by machine in a brown land
turned green by machine: great cranes that rotate their way,

- 20 as wingbeats of water flutter and flash, pumped from sand
and silt and gravel seepage deep down into the light of day.
Canted metal gantries that gush their plumes toward the snow
make out of a dustbowl lush lawns for herds to graze,
and just such fecund possibility of milkflow makes eyes glow,
brings shiny grilles of tankers barrelling through the heat haze.

- 25 So watch the procession pass heavy with milk to the shed.

Beast hooves plug cropped grass in mud-rhythms,
and bones jut through strained skins of a commodity measured
in billions, jaws working cud, and soft muzzles lathered.

- 30 Gargoyles of the Plains, when, through drains, their muck is hosed:
ammonia nitrates into canals, ditches, rivers degraded.

Clear-running streams, wetlands of yesteryear, redesigned
by the centre-pivot irrigators' stuttering yield,

- as alien, post-industrial, futuristic, damaged, starved,
over-abstracted, and with deliberation ruthlessly consumed
35 for calcium for bone, for powder, for yoghurt fat-reduced:
our milk lakes, beneath mountains buckling on tectonic plates.

Source: 'The Motherlode', David Eggleton, from *The Conch Trumpet*, Otago University Press, 2015.

Glossed word: *A motherlode is a place where the largest amount of gold, silver, etc., is found in a particular area.