**Section I – Module A: Experience through Language 2010**

**Poetry – Douglas Stewart, *Selected Poems***

Compare the ways the distinctively visual is created in Stewart’s poetry and in ONE other related text of your own choosing.

In your answer, make detailed reference to at least TWO of the poems set for study.

The prescribed poems are:

– Douglas Stewart, *Selected Poems*

1. *Lady Feeding the Cats*
2. *Wombat*
3. *The Snow-Gum*
4. *Nesting Time*
5. *The Moths*
6. *The Fireflies*
7. *Waterlily*
8. *Cave Painting*

General comments

Successful responses embedded an understanding of the language of the module and the elective in their response. Weaker responses lapsed into a simple recount of both texts with just a passing reference to the question in the introduction or conclusion. The choice of related text was often a discriminator in this question.

1. **Poetry – Douglas Stewart, *Selected Poems***Responses demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the thematic concerns of Stewart’s poems such as an appreciation of the power and beauty of nature, drawing conclusions about humans’ relationship with the environment. Some responses provided a critical technical analysis of the poems, resulting in a loss of focus on the ‘distinctively visual’ elements of the elective. To move beyond the self-evident, candidates needed to address elements of comparison between poems and /or related material. Typically, responses used related texts that were thematically similar to Stewart’s, identifying a uniquely Australian experience. *Lady Feeding Cats* and *Wombat* were the most popular poems.

### Section I – Module A: Experience Through Language 2009

**Poetry – Douglas Stewart, *Selected Poems***

Discuss how the distinctively visual conveys distinctive experiences in at least TWO of Stewart’s poems set for study and ONE other related text of your own choosing.

The prescribed poems are:

1. *Lady Feeding the Cats*
2. *Wombat*
3. *The Snow-Gum*
4. *Nesting Time*
5. *The Moths*
6. *The Fireflies*
7. *Waterlily*
8. *Cave Painting*
9. General Comments

Most candidates displayed a genuine understanding of voice/visual with good levels of literacy and well-structured responses being evident.

Responses were varied and therefore interesting in the ways that they approached the question. Many candidates were clearly well prepared and were able to shape their knowledge to answer the question.

Weaknesses were evident where candidates were clearly using old electives.

The use of one related text meant that candidates were expected to analyse in detail and with depth. There was a wide variety of related texts but better choices were those that were more relevant to distinctive voices or the distinctively visual. Candidates who made their own selection of related texts usually provided a more genuine and personal response, rather than a common or generic response. Candidates who demonstrated a deep engagement with the related text were often able to provide a purposeful answer to the requirements of the question.

Photographs, paintings, picture books and films were popular as related texts, and offered potential for a purposeful and integrated response in the Distinctively Visual elective. In the Distinctive Voices elective, popular choices were speeches, poems, songs, films and television shows. While also offering potential for purposeful discussion, they appeared more difficult for candidates to analyse and shape to the question.

Better responses analysed their related text in terms of the question and in relationship to the prescribed text or its ideas, furthering their thesis. Connections were made in a variety of ways in terms of experiences, ideas, themes, style and techniques. The use of their related text was purposeful, thoughtful, effective and relevant to the requirements of the question. Better responses demonstrated high levels of visual literacy.

Weaker responses were typified by a range of features including poor choice (especially in terms of relevance), brevity, weak links to the question, description rather than analysis, and failure to address composing techniques (eg cinematography in films, musicality in songs).

1. **Poetry – Douglas Stewart, *Selected Poems***Better candidates showed a personal understanding of the visual communicating the uniquely Australian experiences presented in Stewart’s poems.