

Written tasks rationale form: language A2

Submit to: **Examiner** Arrival date: **15 Mar / 15 Sep** Session: **May 2010**

School number:

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- *Type or write legibly using black ink and retain a copy of this form.*
- *Complete one copy of this form for each task.*
- *Complete this form in the target language.*
- *The rationale will not be included in the word count.*
- *To complete this form, refer to the written tasks assessment details in the Language A2 guide.*

Subject: **English A2** Level: **Higher Level**

Candidate name: _____

Candidate Session Number:

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Option to which the task is linked. *If literary option, the text title(s) should be included (for example, George Orwell, 1984). If cultural option, the topic should be included (for example, media-propaganda).*

Literature option, Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen, 1813

Title (if appropriate): _____

Area of communication and type of text: **Professional communication, letter**

Subject: **Mr. Collins**

Purpose: **For Mr. Collins to lecture Lydia Bennet on her misbehaviour, and urge her to make amends, as he will be linked to her as a result of being related.**

Audience: **Lydia Bennett**

Context (where appropriate): _____

TURN OVER

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In the space below, provide the following information:

- your objectives and how you have attempted to achieve them
- specific examples showing how this was done
- comments on how the task demonstrates an understanding of the cultural or literary option on which it is based.

My objective was to write a letter from Mr. Collins to Lydia Bennet. I based it on the character of Mr. Collins and his pompous and self-righteous nature. I chose to do this because Mr. Collins is an extremely interesting character, and I am quite intrigued by how Jane Austen has managed to portray him through the use of his spoken and written language.

Mr. Collins is a ridiculous and rude person, the author makes fun of him through his actions and the way he expresses himself where he badly tries to hide his arrogant and selfish intentions. I wanted to bring this side of him out even stronger through this letter which he addressed to Lydia after her marriage with Mr. Wickham, seeing as his letters especially show how bluntly rude he is through his self-important and pompous language.

It also brings forth Mr. Collins arrogance as the letter is for a married women and very much lecturing in its nature, though it is attempted to be hidden through the long and descriptive sentences. Further on, my aim was very much to show how Mr. Collins brings in other people to make his intentions seem less selfish, by stating what consequences Lydia's actions had on them, though it is clear that his biggest worry is how it may affect him, rather than other's wellbeing.

A letter was the best way to do this because through it he is able to express his hidden agenda to a larger extent, in addition to showing how he is planning on staying away from Lydia and her family, and that she should not contact him either. Through a letter he does not need to worry about their reaction.

The main difference between my representation of Mr. Collins and the original one from *Pride and Prejudice* is that my Mr. Collins is a lot more direct and blunt in his speech than how he would be in the novel. One of the reasons is that at the time the novel is set people's intentions were hidden behind a complicated language filled with sophistication and politeness. Today it would be more acceptable to be more direct in one's language, and my intentions were not to hide his rudeness, but rather a 'bad attempt' at hiding his selfish intentions that always shine through. That is why the language I chose is a lot more frank than Jane Austen's, but I have kept the long and detailed sentence structure for which Mr. Collins is so famous.


The biggest challenge I faced was to make my letter sound like something Mr. Collins would write. Especially in terms of the content, as it is not plausible that someone would write a lecturing letter like that to a married woman at that time. Though one of the reasons why I chose to do this was because Mr. Collins' arrogance is capable of doing something like that. The challenge was to make it seem realistic. The language as well was quite a challenge, as the style of writing that would be expected is very different from the one today. I was able to overcome this by applying a more modern language to be able to portray his character better. It was interesting to tackle the challenge of portraying Mr. Collins, but also a lot of fun as his character allows for playing around with a certain type of language that I probably would not be able to use had I chosen something else.

My Dear Lydia,

Unfortunately, Mrs. Collins and I could not help but hearing about the latest incidents occurring upon your visit to Brighton, and I feel called upon to most urgently advise you to make amends to those who may be linked to your family in any way for your most outrageous behavior. I do however acknowledge your marriage to Mr. Wickham, and Mrs. Collins and I would very much take pleasure in congratulating you on this very amiable match for a girl of your assets. It was howsoever not a very easy decision to settle on continuing my acquaintance with your family, particularly you, for who will, as Lady Cathrine de Bourgh states, condescend themselves to keep contact with such a family. It is not with ease that I produce these words; you are after all a married woman at the present time, though when the misdeed was conducted you were little but a girl at sixteen causing great troubles for your family and those acquainted with them. How you ever could make amends for the repercussions of your faulty manners is not in any way a problem one should take lightly, and I believe it to be fundamental that you bestow the process of redeeming the position of yourself and your family a vast amount of time as this will be the greatest step of ensuring the future happiness of you and your family, and those associated with you.

Taking into consideration the great extent of Mrs. Collins and my own happiness, my conscience does not allow me to rest until I share the secrets of it to those incapable of achieving an equal level of contentment. When I myself came to a place in life where I found it appropriate to select a spouse, a life partner if you like, there were certain expectations as to how I should conduct myself. The manner in which one should go about marriage is a process of courtship, where there is little room for interpretation. No person can take it upon themselves to avoid this process, and if they so happen to do that, great measures must be taken to make amends, if not, the marriage is doomed.

It is most unfortunate that I have to write such a letter to a married woman, but being the clergyman of my position, I feel it my duty to help any person who has been exposed to such a faulty degree of indulgence from birth. The morality you keep to at the present moment cannot be said to be other than empty holes that certainly needs to be filled most without delay seeing as you very soon will be leaving your family to live with your husband in a household yourself will be keeping. I think it of the highest importance that you set yourself and reflect over the position of grief and misery you placed your family in when running off with Mr. Wickham the way in which you choose to go about it, that feeling of fear which no time can remove. There is much expected from a married woman, more than a young girl's mind will ever come to comprehend until she find herself in the

midst of it, and I believe myself, due to our relationship, my situation in life and close connection to Lady Cathrine de Bourgh in the right situation to prepare you for your approaching new position in life. It may be for the best of all parts if you take the most use of the distance between yourself and those associated with you until the scandal is hushed down and we can all express amusement on it as an implausible rumor. In the end, I sincerely hope you not to think of this as an insult to you, but rather encouraging words on your way of becoming a respectable woman of society, which I believe you entirely capable of becoming. 

Yours truly,

Mr. Collins