SECTION I

QUESTION 1

Marking guidelines

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Marker feedback

**Question 1 (a)**

In the majority of responses, candidates selected a feature or features of the book cover and described how these introduced aspects of belonging. A lengthy response was not required for the candidate to achieve 2 marks.

In weaker responses, candidates tended to describe a feature of the book cover without making a connection to belonging.

**Question 1 (b)**

In most responses, candidates demonstrated an understanding of the nature of the relationship between the father and the child, supported by direct or indirect reference to the lines of the poem. A lengthy response was not required for the candidate to achieve 2 marks.

In weaker responses, candidates misunderstood the nature of the relationship or identified the nature of the relationship without providing a clear link to the poem. In some responses, candidates described rather than explained.

**Question 1 (c)**

In better responses, candidates demonstrated with aptly chosen textual references the individual’s search for belonging highlighted in this text. In responding to the word ‘ways’ candidates were able to refer to techniques, features, ideas or concepts.

In weaker responses, candidates described aspects of the text or chose textual references that did not support the ideas expressed.

**Question 1 (d)**

In better responses, candidates drew on well-selected textual references to analyse how imagery was used to capture the author’s intense experience of returning to his hometown. In better responses, candidates were either conceptual or language-based in their approach, or blended the two to draw out connections between imagery and meaning.

In weaker responses, candidates discussed or described aspects of the text rather than analysing them.

**Question 1 (e)**

In better responses, candidates wrote informed personal evaluations of the effectiveness of two texts in exploring how feelings of belonging or not belonging shift with time. In these responses, justification for the texts selected was skilfully supported with a depth of analysis of both texts. Textual references were chosen to advance the candidate’s argument.

In weaker responses, candidates demonstrated limited understanding of the texts.
QUESTION 1 (a) Sample 1

(a) The book cover uses the balanced sentence "Grace loved Mary, and Mary loved Grace." in the blurb to introduce the importance of family in the establishment of a sense of belonging. This lines paired with the image of the two sisters in matching clothing on the front cover, emphasizes the significance of loving family relationships in one's individual sense of belonging.

Comment

The candidate describes how the book cover introduces aspects of belonging by providing features of the book cover (the balanced sentence, the image of the sisters in matching clothing) and then making a connection between these features and aspects of belonging (the significance of loving family relationships).
QUESTION 1 (a) Sample 2

The book cover introduces aspects of belonging through colour, the title’s font, visual images, the back cover blurb. The colours are light, happy colours towards the top of the book indicating something good is happening, but towards the bottom of the book you can see that there is a problem. The title’s font is nice and clear, there are images of children, Sisters a house a father figure and perhaps a school teacher. The sisters look close and inseparable. They belong together as the back cover blurb says ‘Grace loved Mary, and Mary loved Grace’ it shows the close bond the two sisters have, before time pulls them apart.

Comment

The candidate describes how the book cover introduces aspects of belonging by providing features of the book cover (happy colours, images of children, sisters, a house, a father figure) and then making a connection between these features to aspects of belonging (the close bond the two sisters have before time pulls them apart).
QUESTION 1 (b) Sample 1

b) It reveals an easy, comfortable and loving relationship between them as there is "no indecision or unease". It indicates how there is no "guilt or regret or sadness", as they simply relish in the hug that their relationship has offered.

Comment

The candidate explains what the provided lines reveal about the relationship between the father and the child by establishing a clear causal link between the text and its meaning. Understanding of the relationship is evident in the words "easy", "comfortable" and "loving". Direct and indirect references to the lines of the poem indicate that understanding is drawn from the lines of the poem.
b) These lines reveal a lot about the relationship between the father and the child. It shows a physical interaction being shared between the two, not out of guilt or regret or sadness but just to show he cares and is always there for his child. Showing us they have a strong relationship.

Comment

The candidate understands that the relationship between the father and the child is strong. A clear causal link is established through reference to the physical interaction shared between the two and the view expressed that the father cares and is always there for his child.
QUESTION 1 (c) Sample 1

The young man persona is in a desperate search to expand and broaden his understanding of his past and background. He continuously 'persecuted him for days' to try and find light on his unknown place. The persona's search for belong was strong in that he wanted to find a sense of personal identity, to find how he had come to be and to whom he belonged to. The use of rhetorical questions 'how about Ashanti?' highlights the persona questioning his place and past. The title 'A Map to the Door of No Return: Notes to Belonging' suggest that the 'map' may symbolise his search to the 'door' of his heritage and that 'no return' means he failed to find out his question. The passage gives when the persona stopped asking his grandfather he became 'disappointed' in the result so to die his grandfather.

Comment

The candidate demonstrates effectively the ways the text highlights an individual's search for belonging which is defined in the response as "desperate" and "strong". Aply chosen textual references support the ideas expressed. References to moments from the text, rhetorical questions and symbolism demonstrate quality understanding about the ways that the text highlights this particular search for belonging.
**QUESTION 1 (c) Sample 2**

The text highlights an individual's search for belonging through a personal story. She wants the answers but her grandfather doesn't quite have them. "Papa never remembered..."

"I was disappointed." She explains that there's a "space" opened in her because she cannot figure out who her people are. This communicates that an individual is missing a piece of their identity when searching for belonging.

"Having no name to call on was having no past." This highlights an individual's need for a sense of belonging. It suggests the idea that once you know something's missing, you need to find it or there'll always be a "space".

**Comment**

The candidate makes effective links between the personal story that the writer crafts and the idea that the search for belonging intensifies when an individual knows that "something's missing." This is a response that places its emphasis conceptually. The quality of understanding demonstrated is strong.
QUESTION 1 (d) Sample 1

Text (a) Imagery is used to capture the author's intense experience of returning to his hometown by juxtaposing what the author remembers as to what is currently so. The "cacophony of noise and rumbling, clattering, announced and shuffled night feet" is completely contrast to the author's memories of Bethin as he feels, "a complete stranger in my hometown." The obvious transformation of Bethin as opposed to the "quiet suburban cul-de-sac in Dublin," surprises the author and his description of the met the personification of the motor cars, some the contrast the two, "obscuring the gradual withdrawal of the metal beast, leaving behind the wreckage of sleep" is juxtaposed with the "pleasant soothing sound" of music, in order to create a contrast in imagery. The imagery described in text (a) serves to highlight the alienation that the author feels towards his hometown because of the 20 years time that has passed.

Comment

The candidate provides an effective analysis about how imagery is used to capture the author's intense experiences of returning to his hometown. The candidate draws meaning insightfully from the text and analyses language features to assert that imagery highlights the alienation of returning to his hometown. Textual references are aptly chosen and support the ideas expressed.
QUESTION 1 (d)  Sample 2

d) The use of imagery effectively illustrates the sense of displacement and confusion the author feels upon returning to his hometown by listing a series of sounds/noises, such as "cacophony of hissing and rumbling, echoing announcements...shuffling of losty feet." The author effectively captures the amount of noise and the image of business that are going on downstairs on the streets of Berlin. By contrasting that to the previous place he lived in, he presents a sense of sudden unfamiliarity to his hometown as he has gotten used to the quietness of Dublin. This sense of displacement is highlighted in his use of emotive words: "Dublin had alienated me from the noisy reality of Berlin." It emphasizes the intense feeling of needing a moment of adjustment returning to his hometown.

Comment

The candidate analyses effectively how imagery is used to capture the author's intense experience of returning to his hometown. The experience is characterised as one of "displacement", "confusion" and "sudden unfamiliarity". The analysis of imagery to support the meaning drawn from the text demonstrates clear understanding and insight. The choice of textual references aptly supports the analysis.
QUESTION 1 (e) Sample 1

e) As a reader I believe that the book cover Abyssinia and the memoir extract of "Myself passing by" are most important effective in exploring how our perceptions of belonging may change over time.

The book cover of "Abyssinia" conveys how our connections to other people can change over time. Initially the text conveys the sense of connection between the two friends: "Grace loved Mary and Mary loved Grace."

The use of chiasmus to invert the two individuals demonstrates the mutuality of their protopathic friendship. The high modality language in "but inseparable bonds in life can be shattered" demonstrates the swiftness with which our sense of belonging can unexpectedly change.

Furthermore, the use of images of windows juxtaposed on top
of photographs of people of various ages symbolises the way change in time can alter our own perspectives of people. Thus the bookcover combines a range of literary and visual techniques to effectively convey how feelings towards other people can change over time, resulting in different feelings of belonging.

Text four conveys how our opinion towards places may change over time, with similar effectiveness as the bookcover. The temporal references of “20 years in a quiet suburban cul-de-sac in Dublin had alienated me,” these convey how opinions can change in time whilst the salience of the word ‘alienation’ portrays the effect that time has had on his sense of belonging in Berlin. However, the narrator’s opinion changes with similar swiftness as the girls.
relationship in the book cover. The

In the quote "pleasant, soothing

sound, sweet and refreshing," the

use of natural imagery and illusion

conveys the author's reconnection

with his sense of place in Berlin.

Thus, through a range of

literary techniques the memoir

extract effectively conveys how

feelings of belonging and not belonging

to peace can change with time.

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Comment

The candidate makes an informed personal choice of two texts as most effective in exploring how feelings of belonging and not belonging may shift with time. The choice is then justified through a well-organised analysis of the texts, demonstrating skill, understanding and quality insights. The response is evaluative and coherent and draws on language to express a well-controlled response to the question.
QUESTION 1 (e)  Sample 2

Both the book cover and the ‘Map to the door of no return’ effectively explore how feelings of belonging and not belonging shift with time. The book cover highlights early childhood memories through the placement of images. Images of the house and toy elephant in the background of a motherly figure represents childhood memories. The images of the two sisters and small dresses symbolise innocence and fragility. However, the broken windows and the use of diction in ‘inseparable bonds can be shattered’ convey that the effects of time is unpredictable and may break these inseparable bonds represented by the image of broken windows.

Similarly, ‘A map to the door of no return’ highlights how simple issues over time if left unsolved may leave voids in one’s identity and sense of belonging to a culture. This is evident in the juxtaposition of ‘I carried this space with me’ with ‘the rupture of this exchange’. The recurring motif of a rupture has shifted the author’s sense of belonging creating what he feels is a ‘limbo symbolised by “the door of no return”’. 

Comment

This response demonstrates a clear understanding. It supports arguments and insights about belonging/not belonging and the effect of time. It cites evidence of initial childhood bonds being “shattered” and the “rupture” that results from unknown identity.