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**English A: literature – Standard level – Paper 1**  
**Anglais A : littérature – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 1**  
**Inglés A: Literatura – Nivel Medio – Prueba 1**

8 May 2025 / 8 mai 2025 / 8 de mayo de 2025

|                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Zone A</b> afternoon  | <b>Zone B</b> afternoon  | <b>Zone C</b> afternoon  |
| <b>Zone A</b> après-midi | <b>Zone B</b> après-midi | <b>Zone C</b> après-midi |
| <b>Zona A</b> tarde      | <b>Zona B</b> tarde      | <b>Zona C</b> tarde      |

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**Instructions to candidates**

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write a guided analysis of text 1 or text 2.
- Use the guiding question or propose an alternative technical or formal aspect of the text to focus your analysis.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[20 marks]**.

**Instructions destinées aux candidats**

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Rédigez une analyse dirigée du texte 1 ou du texte 2.
- Utilisez la question d'orientation ou proposez une autre manière d'aborder le texte en choisissant un aspect technique ou formel sur lequel concentrer votre analyse.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[20 points]**.

**Instrucciones para los alumnos**

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un análisis guiado del texto 1 o del texto 2.
- Utilice la pregunta de orientación o proponga otro aspecto técnico o formal del texto en el que centrar su análisis.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[20 puntos]**.

Write a guided analysis of **one** of the following texts.

**1.**

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2. The following extract is taken from the short story “Mrs Skagg’s Husbands” by Bret Harte. It is published in the collection *Bret Harte’s Choice Works*.

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The Stanislaus River! A thousand feet below him drove its yellowing current. Through all the vacillations of his unseated mind he had clung to one idea—to reach the river, to lave<sup>1</sup> in it, to swim it if need be, but to put it for ever between him and the harrying shapes, to drown for ever in its turbid depths the thronging spectres, to wash away in its yellow flood all stains and colour of the past. And now he was leaping from boulder to boulder, from blackened stump to stump, from gnarled bush to bush, caught for a moment and withheld by clinging vines, or plunging downward into dusty hollows, until, rolling, dropping, sliding, and stumbling, he reached the river-bank, whereon he fell, rose, staggered forward, and fell again with outstretched arms upon a rock that breasted the swift current. And there he lay as dead.

10 A few stars came out hesitatingly above Deadwood Slope. A cold wind that had sprung up with the going down of the sun fanned them into momentary brightness, swept the heated flanks of the mountain, and ruffled the river. Where the fallen man lay there was a sharp curve in the stream, so that in the gathering shadows the rushing water seemed to leap out of the darkness and to vanish again. Decayed drift-wood, trunks of trees, fragments of broken sluicing<sup>2</sup>—the wash and waste of many a mile—swept into sight a moment, and were gone. All of decay, wreck, and foulness gathered in the long circuit of mining-camp and settlement, all the dregs and refuse of a crude and wanton<sup>3</sup> civilization, reappeared for an instant, and then were hurried away in the darkness and lost. No wonder that as the wind ruffled the yellow waters the waves seemed to lift their unclean hands towards the rock whereon the fallen man lay, as if eager to snatch him from it, too, and hurry him toward the sea.

20 It was very still. In the clear air a horn blown a mile away was heard distinctly. The jingling of a spur<sup>4</sup> and a laugh on the highway over Payne’s Ridge sounded clearly across the river. The rattling of harness and hoofs foretold for many minutes the approach of the Wingdam coach, that at last, with flashing lights, passed within a few feet of the rock. Then for an hour all again was quiet. Presently the moon, round and full, lifted herself above the serried ridge and looked down upon the river. At first the bared peak of Deadwood Hill gleamed white and skull-like. Then the shadows of Payne’s Ridge cast on the slope slowly sank away, leaving the unshapely stumps, the dusty fissures, and clinging outcrop of Deadwood Slope to stand out in black and silver. Still stealing softly downward, the moonlight touched the bank and the rock, and then glittered brightly on the river. The rock was bare and the man was gone, but the river still hurried swiftly to the sea.

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<sup>1</sup> lave: wash

<sup>2</sup> sluicing: wooden gates to control the flow of water

<sup>3</sup> wanton: unclean, wasteful

<sup>4</sup> spur: spiked wheel on a horse-rider’s heel

- How and to what effect are nature and the landscape presented in this passage?
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**References/Références/Referencias:**

2. Harte, B., 1899. *Bret Harte's Choice Works*. London: Chatto & Windus. Source adapted.