

To be completed by candidate

NSN

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School Code

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SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

32403 TERM 2

Draw a cross through the box (X) if you have NOT written in this booklet

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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Literacy 2026

32403 Demonstrate understanding of ideas and information in written texts

Credits: Five

WEEK ONE | 18–22 MAY 2026

OUTCOMES	
1	Demonstrate understanding of written texts.
2	Evaluate written texts with critical awareness.
3	Process written texts for different purposes.

Enter your National Student Number (NSN) and School Code into the space above.

You should attempt ALL the questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–28 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

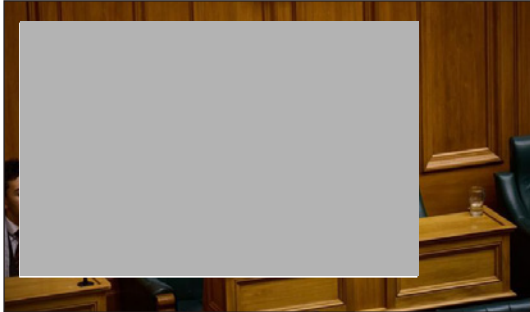
Do not write in the margins (// // //). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

QUESTION ONE

Read the article about four young New Zealanders who have been in the news (below and on page 3) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 4 and 5.

Young New Zealanders



In 2025, 17-year-old **Nate Wilbourne** was a Young New Zealander of the Year semi-finalist. The award recognises young leaders whose ideas help motivate New Zealand youth. In 2024, after winning an international scholarship, 16-year-old Nate spoke about 'action in nature' at the Youth Environmental Education Congress in Abu Dhabi. Back in New Zealand, Nate spoke to the New Zealand Youth Parliament about the environmental threats on the

West Coast, where he lives. "I want to do my bit to help nature – we need to look after what we've got."

Nate also founded and runs 'Gen-Z Aotearoa', which connects young people to nature. Because, says Nate, "I believe we young people can change the world".



24-year-old **Tuhoto-Ariki Pene** is a professional downhill mountain bike rider. In February 2025, Tuhoto-Ariki won the Elite Titles at the national championships. July found him competing at the UCI MTB World Cup Downhill in Andorra, Europe. This led to his joining the MS-RACING team, and in August he was racing in France.

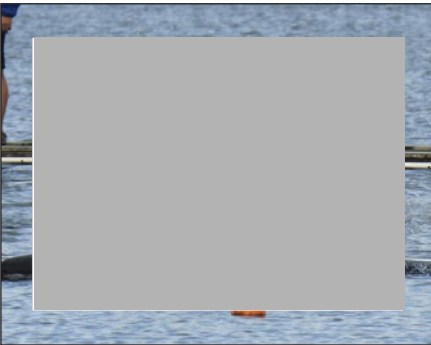
Tuhoto-Ariki started racing BMX at the age of three before moving to downhill mountain biking. What inspires him? "Seeing the pro-racer's lifestyle. I can

see myself doing that, but the joy of riding overpowers everything. When I'm back home, I feel like I'm still eight years old ripping with my older brother like we used to, and that brings back good memories."



In 2025, 17-year-old **Rutendo Shadaya** was named one of *Time* magazine's girls of the year. Rutendo's writing journey started when, as a nine-year-old, she created *Rachel and the Enchanted Forest*, as a birthday present book for her best friend. Rutendo has since published two more books about how Rachel's **perseverance** helps her through various challenges, friendships, adventures, and mental health issues.

Rutendo, who was born in New Zealand to Zimbabwean parents, wants young girls to feel empowered when they read these books. "You'll always face a lot of challenges, but those challenges are built into your journey. Take that risk, you won't regret it in the end."



16-year-old **Stella Crossan** was the sports category winner at the 2024 Canterbury GirlBoss Awards. **The award is for a young woman who excels on-and-off the field and lifts others as she goes.** In 2024, Stella represented New Zealand at the ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships in Bulgaria.

Stella trains daily to meet her kayaking goals. She is passionate about giving back to the community and is a coach and volunteer lifeguard. She intends to study for a

degree in sport coaching or physical education. "I strive to be a powerful wahine (woman) and inspire others to get involved in sport," Stella says.

(a) The main purpose of the article is to:

- ☐ explain what a reader has to do to enjoy similar success.
- ☐ persuade the reader to become more outgoing and successful.
- ☐ describe the activities and interests of these four people.
- ☐ show how many awards are available for young people today.

(b) The best title for the article would be:

- ☐ Young New Zealand athletes living their dreams
- ☐ Success comes in many forms for young kiwis
- ☐ New Zealanders focussed on winning awards
- ☐ Kiwi kids are changing the world for the better

(c) The most likely reason that Nate Wilbourne was a semi-finalist for the 2025 Young New Zealander of the Year award was because he:

- ☐ was a Youth MP at the New Zealand Youth Parliament.
- ☐ spoke at the Youth Environmental Education Congress.
- ☐ won an international scholarship at 16 years of age.
- ☐ inspired young people to get involved in the environment.

(d) *Rutendo has since published two more books about how Rachel's **perseverance** helps her through various challenges, friendships, adventures, and mental health issues.*

The best word to replace **perseverance** is:

- ☐ determination
- ☐ independence
- ☐ consideration
- ☐ enthusiasm

- (e) *The award is for a young woman who excels on-and-off the field and lifts others as she goes.*

The writer used the expression “lift others as she goes” to show that the winner of the award is for a woman who:

- ☐ ensures she succeeds when others fail.
- ☐ raises others up to succeed ahead of herself.
- ☐ supports others on their journeys to success.
- ☐ carries others who will never have her success.

- (f) If a reader wanted to interview young people who are currently helping in community organisations, which two people would be the best to contact?

- ☐ Rutendo and Tuhoto-Ariki
- ☐ Stella and Nate
- ☐ Tuhoto-Ariki and Stella
- ☐ Nate and Rutendo

QUESTION TWO

Read Text A, Text B, and Text C (below and on page 7) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 8 and 9.

TEXT A

Detector Dogs

Detector dogs are extensively trained to locate various things through their keen sense of smell, which is significantly more sensitive than that of humans.

Detector dogs help find dangerous and prohibited items crossing New Zealand's border.

Detector dogs work at international airports, on aircraft, on ships, and in warehouses. They search items such as cargo, mail, and luggage.

Detector dogs enjoy work due to:

- mental stimulation
- the strong bond with their handler
- **positive reinforcement.**

Detector dogs view work as a big game of hide and seek. When the dog locates an odour that it is trained to find, it's given its favourite toy. **Play is a detector dog's payment**, so they are always eager to keep searching.

TEXT B

Meet Detective Cooper

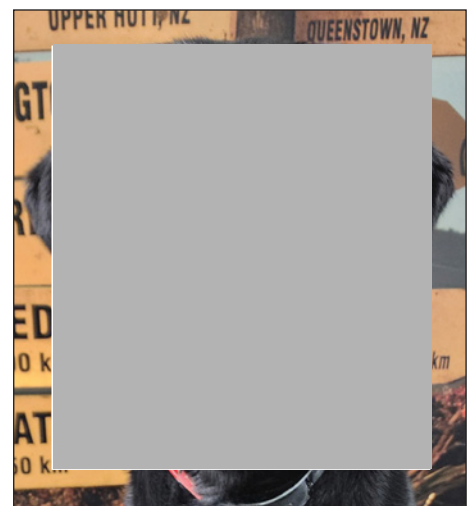
My story: Born and bred in Christchurch, I started my career learning and playing around Wellington airport. Now graduated, I work at the airport to help keep the world safe, one suitcase at a time. On my days off I love swimming and relaxing in the sun.

My breed: Labrador

My birthday: 10 August 2022

Favourite game: Chasing my tennis ball

Did you know that my nose is so powerful that I could smell a juicy bone from over one kilometre away? I have special training that helps me use my super powers of smell to search bags and cargo to ensure that there is nothing dangerous on your aeroplane.

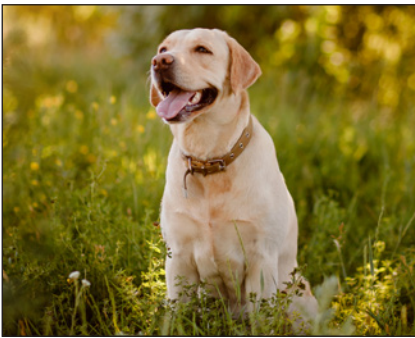


TEXT C**Comparing detector dogs**

Different breeds of detector dogs suit different workplaces such as airports and warehouses. Here are the strengths and limitations of four popular breeds of detection dogs.

**German shepherds**

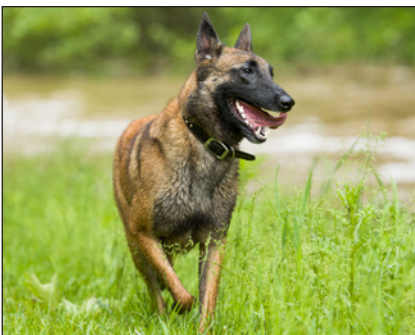
German shepherds are intelligent and good at problem solving. They are strong and can adapt to different environments. German shepherds are large dogs, which can be a challenge in tight or crowded spaces.

**Labradors**

Labradors have friendly personalities. They have a strong drive to 'work' combined with an excellent sense of smell. They can be overly friendly and get distracted easily, especially in crowded environments.

**Beagles**

Beagles' scent detection capabilities are outstanding. They have an excellent ability to detect a wide range of substances. Their smaller size allows them to navigate crowded areas.

**Belgian malinois**

Belgian malinois are incredibly smart and trainable. They have a strong work drive. They are intense dogs that require experienced handlers. They can sometimes become aggressive.

(a) To become a detector dog, a dog needs:

- ☐ a lot of training.
- ☐ to be a labrador.
- ☐ to have super powers.
- ☐ many different handlers.

(b) *Play is a detector dog's payment*

What is the best meaning of this statement in Text A?

- ☐ Detector dogs don't get paid to work.
- ☐ Play is better than work for detector dogs.
- ☐ Play is a great prize for detector dogs.
- ☐ Detector dogs are expensive to look after.

(c) *Detector dogs enjoy work due to:*

- *mental stimulation*
- *the strong bond with their handler*
- ***positive reinforcement.***

In Text A, the word with the closest meaning to **positive reinforcement** is:

- ☐ attitude
- ☐ support
- ☐ comment
- ☐ reward

(d) Text B has most likely been written for:

- ☐ people who work alongside detector dogs.
- ☐ adults who have been searched by a detector dog.
- ☐ children who are curious about detector dogs.
- ☐ university students who are studying airport safety.

- (e) A new detector dog is needed for a very busy airport at a favourite holiday spot for families.

Based on the descriptions in Text C, which of the four breeds would be the most suitable?

- ☐ German shepherd
- ☐ Beagle
- ☐ Labrador
- ☐ Belgian malinois

- (f) All three texts mention:

- ☐ places where detector dogs work.
- ☐ the different breeds of detector dogs.
- ☐ how detector dogs are trained.
- ☐ why detector dogs enjoy working.

QUESTION THREE

Read the article (below and on page 11) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 12 and 13.

Whether AI is good or bad depends on this one thing

by Bruce Weinstein PhD

Nov 15, 2024

Is AI (artificial intelligence) good or bad? The answer may surprise you. But let's start with a quiz!

What do you think the right answer for each statement is?

1. Cellphones are good.

- A true
- B false
- C it depends

The correct answer is C: it depends.

A cellphone can be a lifesaver if you need to call for help in an emergency. But if you're constantly checking it throughout the day, **disrupting** your focus at work or straining your personal relationships, that cellphone isn't serving you so well. So, is a cellphone good or bad? It depends entirely on how you use it.

2. Social media is good.

- A true
- B false
- C it depends

The correct answer is C: it depends.

Social media is great for keeping in touch with friends and family. But it can also be used to spread misinformation or fuel online harassment. Whether it's a positive force or not hinges on how people choose to use it.

3. AI is good.

- A true
- B false
- C it depends

The correct answer is C: it depends.

AI often sparks strong opinions – either praised as a revolutionary tool or warned against as a potential threat. But AI is not inherently good or bad. Like cellphones and social media, artificial intelligence is just a tool. Its goodness or badness depends on how it's used.

Let's look at some good uses of AI.

Good uses in healthcare

A [Harvard Medical School](#) report showed that AI can make medical imaging more accurate. This helps with the early detection of diseases like cancer. For instance, AI systems can analyse X-rays to find issues that human beings might overlook.

[Administrative tasks](#) can be reduced by AI. For example, AI can manage patient records and assist with other everyday paperwork.

According to research published in the [Journal of Internal Medicine](#), doctors spend about 27% of their time with patients and 49% on paperwork. AI can therefore allow doctors to focus on what they've been trained to do: care for patients.

Good uses in business

AI is also improving routine business tasks. By automating repetitive tasks such as data entry and document management, AI helps companies both reduce human error and free up employees to do more strategic work.

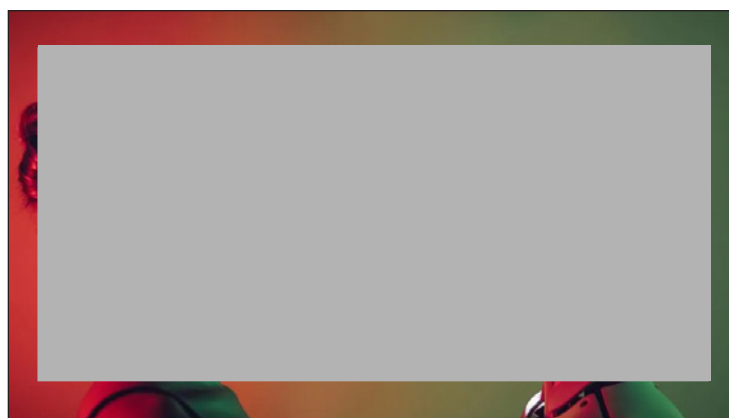
[IBM](#) has reported 10 ways that AI can make businesses more efficient. This included predicting equipment failure and future demand for a business' products.

As with healthcare, AI in business can allow professionals to focus on what matters most: higher-level work that requires human creativity and judgment.

For reflection

What say you, dear reader?

Technology is morally neutral. What makes the difference is how we use it. AI can be put to good use or bad. How can you use AI the right way?



- (a) The title of the article is *Whether AI is good or bad depends on this one thing*.

What is the 'one thing'?

- ☐ Whether you trust it.
- ☐ What your job is.
- ☐ How you use it.
- ☐ What your opinion is.

- (b) *But if you're constantly checking it throughout the day, **disrupting** your focus at work or straining your personal relationships, that cellphone isn't serving you so well.*

The word with the closest meaning to **disrupting** is:

- ☐ disguising
- ☐ distancing
- ☐ erupting
- ☐ interrupting

- (c) Thinking of the examples the writer gives for healthcare and business, the writer most likely thinks it is good to use AI where it:

- ☐ reduces errors and frees workers up to focus on what they were trained to do.
- ☐ reduces the number of workers employed by the business.
- ☐ increases the number of repetitive tasks required to be completed by workers.
- ☐ increases the demand for services and products of a business.

- (d) Which link from the article would you click on if you wanted to find out more about how AI is being used in medical imaging?

- ☐ [Journal of Internal Medicine](#)
- ☐ [Administrative tasks](#)
- ☐ [Harvard Medical School](#)
- ☐ [IBM](#)

(e) The main purpose of the last part of the article *For reflection* is to:

- ☐ test the reader's knowledge about the article.
- ☐ sum up the points of the article for the reader to think about.
- ☐ help the reader decide whether AI is good or bad.
- ☐ encourage the reader to question what they've just read.

(f) AI is developing quickly. When deciding if this article is reliable, you should mainly consider the:

- ☐ title of the article.
- ☐ structure of the article.
- ☐ length of the article.
- ☐ date of the article.

QUESTION FOUR

Read Text A and Text B (below, and on pages 15–16) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 18 and 19.

TEXT A

Influencers and advertising

What is a social media ‘influencer’?

An influencer is someone who:

- has an audience (regardless of size) on social media (e.g., *Instagram* or *TikTok*)
- earns money / free products from posting their own content and / or advertising content.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) Code applies to all advertising in all media. This includes influencer advertising content.

The ASA sets the standards for responsible advertising in New Zealand. The ASA provides education and training to advertisers. It also manages a complaints process.

Responsibilities of influencers

The following forms of influencer advertising are covered under the ASA Code:

- advertising the influencer’s own product or service
- ad content that is controlled directly or indirectly by an advertiser
- content about a free product or service (gift) received from an advertiser.

All ad content must be easily seen as advertising by consumers.

All **parties** to an ad – i.e., the influencer, advertiser, and other agents – are responsible for making it clear the content is advertising.

How to follow the ASA Code

Be up-front

Use a clear hashtag or label to show it is an ad. The ASA recommends using one of the following (with or without hashtags (#)): Ad, Advert, Advertisement.

Keep it clear

Influencers may include other labels to show their relationship to the advertiser. This must be in addition to, and not instead of, the ad, advert, or advertisement labels. Examples include, but are not limited to: Gift, Gifted, FreeSample, ProductReview.

Separate the label

The Ad, Advert, or Advertisement label / hashtag should appear before other labels. Influencers who choose to use additional labels should include them after and separate from Ad, Advert, or Advertisement.

Make it readable

Don't try to hide the label with a small font size or hard-to-read colour. Make it large and clear enough to be noticed.

Please turn over ►

TEXT B

aimeebestfashion ... Liked by you and others aimeebestfashion Paid partnership with @knoxsox_nz. Tried out the latest socks from Knox Sox. What a dream to wear! #knoxarethebestsocks #socomfy #ad #warmsocks	the.jones.family.wears ... Liked by you and others the.jones.family.wears Look at our cute socks from Knox Sox! They are comfortable and come in a great range of colours. Can't get over how amazing these socks are! Gifted 🙏❤️
fits_that_are_lit ... Liked by you and others fits_that_are_lit Paid partnership with @knoxsox_nz #ad #sponsored It can be so hard to find a pair of socks that keep your feet warm no matter how cold but Knox Sox do the trick! #KnoxSoxWhānau	best_products_4U ... Liked by you and others best_products_4U If you're stuck on what to get your friend for their birthday, go for a pair of @knoxsox_nz. It's like walking on air! #ad

**This page has been deliberately left blank.
The assessment continues on the following page.**

(a) Which person is NOT an influencer?

- ☐ Someone who makes a product and sells it on social media.
- ☐ Someone who is paid to advertise a product on social media but has fewer than 50 followers in their audience.
- ☐ Someone who gets a product for free in return for a review on social media.
- ☐ Someone who buys a product and reviews it on social media.

(b) *The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) Code applies to all advertising in all media.*

Why are brackets used in this sentence in Text A?

- ☐ To show the reader an abbreviation will be used later, instead of the full name.
- ☐ To create a connection to the reader through a more informal tone.
- ☐ To provide the reader with a reference to another information source.
- ☐ To give a definition to the reader for an unfamiliar technical term.

(c) *All **parties** to an ad – i.e., the influencer, advertiser, and other agents – are responsible for making it clear the content is advertising.*

What does **parties** mean in this sentence in Text A?

- ☐ Pieces or sections.
- ☐ Social gatherings.
- ☐ People involved.
- ☐ Groups of consumers.

(d) The main purpose of Text A is to:

- ☐ show that many influencers post too many adverts.
- ☐ explain the rules for influencers about posting adverts.
- ☐ describe what an influencer is and what they are not.
- ☐ provide information on how to become an influencer.

(e) Which post is the least clear that it is an advert?

- ☐ aimeebestfashion
- ☐ best_products_4U
- ☐ fits_that_are_lit
- ☐ the.jones.family.wears

(f) Which part of *How to follow the ASA Code* was NOT followed by aimeebestfashion in Text B?

- ☐ Be up-front
- ☐ Separate the label
- ☐ Keep it clear
- ☐ Make it readable

QUESTION FIVE

Read Text A and Text B (below and on page 21) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 22 and 23.

TEXT A

Te Araroa trail

Te Araroa trail is one of the world's most **diverse** long-distance walking trails. It is 3,000 km long and runs the length of New Zealand (see trail map).

It winds its way through busy cities and rural towns, beside active volcanoes, across sweeping plains, and alongside meandering rivers.

Each year approximately 2,000 walkers complete the trail, either heading north (northbound) or heading south (southbound).

Southbound (SOBO)

Start: Te Rerenga Wairua, Cape Reinga

End: Motupōhue, Bluff

Pros:

- Easy start, with flat beaches, warmer weather.
- Better access from Auckland.
- Meet more walkers.

Cons:

- More walkers, less solitude.
- More towns and roads at the start.
- More physically demanding at the end.

Northbound (NOBO)

Start: Motupōhue, Bluff

End: Te Rerenga Wairua, Cape Reinga

Pros:

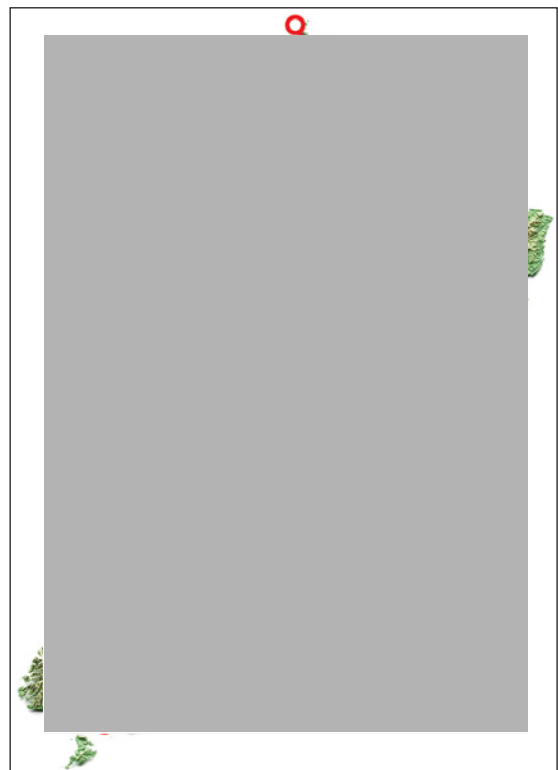
- Dramatic landscapes at the start.
- Ends with warmer climate.
- Fewer walkers, more solitude.

Cons:

- Need to be very fit at the start.
- Weather will get more humid.

Still not sure?

Go to the [Te Araroa website](#) and meet walkers who have travelled from both directions.



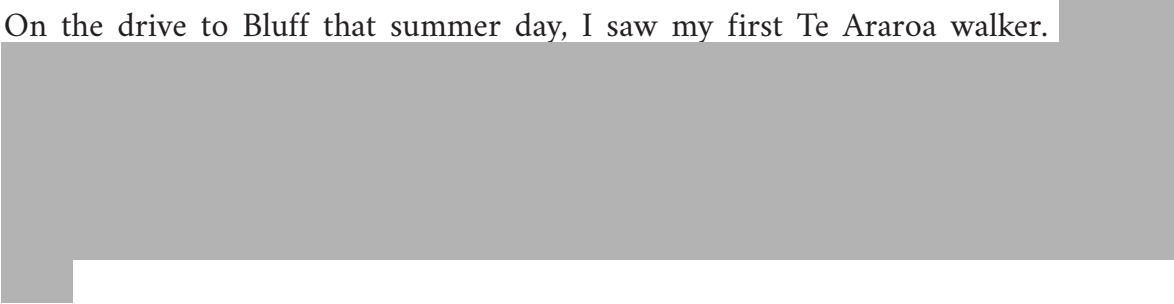
Map of Te Araroa trail

TEXT B**Naomi's story**

After reading Geoff Chapple's book, *Te Araroa The New Zealand Trail*, Naomi Arnold became fascinated with the walk. Twenty years later, she took up the challenge herself. In that time, Naomi had become an award-winning environmental / conservation author and journalist. She has written for New Zealand publications including *North & South* and *New Zealand Geographic*, so it was quite natural that she turned her walking experience into a book, *Northbound*.

The following is an extract from the beginning of her book:

On the drive to Bluff that summer day, I saw my first Te Araroa walker.



I had 3,028 km to go. From here, I'd walk alone.

(a) The main purpose of Text A is to:

- ☐ Emphasise the significant landmarks on the trail.
- ☐ Provide information and details about the trail.
- ☐ Persuade people to go on walks more often.
- ☐ Explain exactly where the trail is in New Zealand.

(b) *Te Araroa trail is one of the world's most **diverse** long-distance walking trails.*

The best word to replace **diverse** in Text A is:

- ☐ varied
- ☐ celebrated
- ☐ popular
- ☐ demanding

(c) The writer helps the reader trust the information in Text A by providing:

- ☐ lots of descriptive language.
- ☐ a detailed map of the trails.
- ☐ statistics about trail walkers.
- ☐ a link to the walking trail's website.

(d) The bullet points in Text A have been used to:

- ☐ point out unusual details.
- ☐ order important information.
- ☐ summarise key information.
- ☐ highlight positive details.

- (e) *I turned around, feeling a bit sick, and started up the steps.*

In Text B, why was Naomi feeling sick at the start of the walk?

- ☐ She was anxious about completing the walk.
- ☐ She was quite scared of climbing the steps.
- ☐ She was very cold and extremely tired.
- ☐ She was feeling ill from the long car journey.

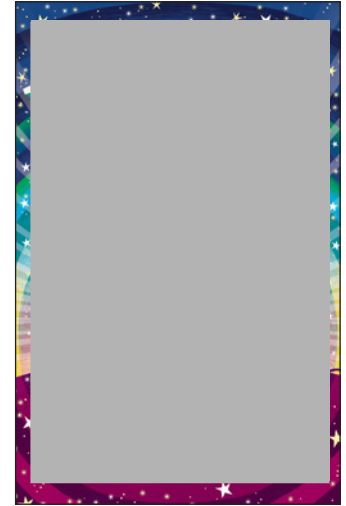
- (f) After finishing *Northbound*, a reader was inspired to find more of Naomi Arnold's work. They were particularly interested in Naomi's concerns for the health of the environment.

Which of these articles, written by Naomi, would be most relevant for this reader?

- ☐ *Maruia River Retreat: Popular luxury escape reborn as a well-being destination*, Naomi Arnold
The old-growth beech forest with its river boardwalks spilling over with rich undergrowth is a magic retreat.
- ☐ *Southern Nights*, Naomi Arnold
This fantastic book is about what we see in space when we look up into the night sky.
- ☐ *Exploring the twists and turns of Bulmer Cavern*, Naomi Arnold
Cavers burrow deep into the ground, recording what they find under the skin of the earth.
- ☐ *Coal Island, New Zealand*, Naomi Arnold
The 'Coal Island' project aims to get rid of the pests that are destroying our native plants and animals.

Read Text A and Text B (below and on page 25) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 26 and 27.

The Tunnel of Dreams by Bernard Beckett (from a novel)



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Journal compilation © 2006 Blackwell Publishing Ltd

Slowly,

carefully, **Stefan** opened the door.

TEXT B**Extract of an interview with Bernard Beckett
about writing *The Tunnel of Dreams*****What inspired *The Tunnel of Dreams*?**

The book was written initially as a story to read to my boys. It is about identical twins who

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

adventure to a twin world of ours.

(a) In Text A, the best word to describe both the boys is:

- ☐ carefree
- ☐ adventurous
- ☐ unreliable
- ☐ dangerous

(b) *Stefan opened the door.*

In this line in Text A, Bernard wants the reader to feel:

- ☐ surprised
- ☐ confused
- ☐ relieved
- ☐ nervous

(c) According to Bernard Beckett, which aspects of the novel *The Tunnel of Dreams* are based on real life?

- ☐ The boys' special abilities.
- ☐ The deserted house.
- ☐ The street setting.
- ☐ The alternate world.

(d) Text B is helpful for a reader who wants to learn more about:

- ☐ what happens at the end of the story.
- ☐ how the main characters were created.
- ☐ when to structure a story for publication.
- ☐ why the book is called *The Tunnel of Dreams*.

(e) After reading both Text A and Text B, the reader could reasonably assume that the:

- ☐ boys in *The Tunnel of Dreams* are identical twins.
- ☐ alternate world involves climbing through a tunnel.
- ☐ story came from a dream that one of the boys had.
- ☐ author's sons did actually break into an abandoned house.

Acknowledgements

Material from the following sources has been adapted for use in this assessment:

Question One

Nate Wilbourne: www.nelsonapp.co.nz/news/articles/686c723d2b7137038bf80143;

Tuhoto-Ariki Pene: www.pinkbike.com/news/getting-to-know-tuhoto-ariki-new-zealands-next-rising-star.html;

Rutendo Shadaya: www.memorychirere.blogspot.com/2024/07/talking-to-rutendo-shadaya-teen-author.html;

Stella Crossan: www.thepress.co.nz/sport/350400901/christchurch-champion-kayaker-hopes-inspire-other-rangatahi-maori

Question Two

Text A: www.customs.govt.nz/about-us/detector-dog-unit

Text B: www.aviation.govt.nz/passenger-information/about-our-dogs/meet-the-detectives/

Text C: www.3dk9detection.com/news/examining-the-difference-between-sniffer-dog-breeds

(images): German shepherd: stock.adobe.com/185676689; Labrador: stock.adobe.com/212512808; Beagle: stock.adobe.com/598822558; Belgian malinois: stock.adobe.com/271108432

Question Three

(Text and image): www.forbes.com/sites/bruceweinstein/2024/11/15/whether-ai-is-good-or-bad-depends-on-this-one-thing/

Question Four

(images): AI-generated photographs of socks

Question Five

Text A and (image): www.teararoa.org.nz/about-te-araroa/

Text B: www.newsroom.co.nz/2025/04/17/book-of-the-week-naomi-walks-the-earth; Arnold, N. (2025) *Northbound*. Auckland, New Zealand: HarperCollins Publishers New Zealand.

Question Six

Text A: Beckett, B. (2020) *The Tunnel of Dreams*. Melbourne, Victoria, Australia: The Text Publishing Company.

Text B: sourced and significant changes made from: *Discussion with Bernard Beckett* www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcHfykBHATk