Sample Essay's:

PAPER I
Common module: Texts and human experiences

Key terms:
- **Individual human experience**: Experiences that we attain due to our choices or elements of one's life
- **Collective human experience**: Universal experiences such as adulthood, coming of age, relationships etc
- Anomalies, paradoxes, inconsistencies in human behaviour and motivations
- **Anomaly (irregularities)**: abnormality, a blip on the screen of life that doesn't fit with the rest of the pattern, odd or peculiar
- When something derives from what is common, usual or expected and the result is surprising
- Result that doesn't fit with the course of being, how reaction or emotions with the human experience presents an anomaly?
- Character act or do something that is not expected in the circumstance?
- **Paradox (contradictions)**: absurd or contradictory statement or proposition which when investigated may prove to be well founded or true
- Initially seems contradictory or perplexing, but when further examined presents a truth despite contrasting ideas
- **Inconsistency (variation and discrepancies - surprising lack of compatibility/similarity)**: quality or state of being inconsistent; discordance in respect to sentiment or action; such contrariety between two things that both can not exist or be true together; disagreement; incompatibility, e.g: 3 ppl with different perspectives

Visual techniques:
- Symbols, lighting, colour (hue, value, intensity, cool/warm)
- Art elements (texture, line, space, shape size)
- Juxtaposition of elements (contrast)
- Positioning of elements
- Salience (focal points): stand out, attract viewers attention

Rhetoric device:
- Rhetoric appeals to persuade an audience on a perspective (pathos, logos, ethos)
- Facts, repetition, emotive language, opinions, statistics
- Humour, anaphora (repetition of words)

Question asking ‘How’: include techniques and quote
- Do not write outside the lines, ask for more paper if needed
- Incorporate module/rubric within answer
- How texts represent individual and collective human experiences
- How texts represent human qualities and emotions associated with, or arising from, these experiences
- How texts may give insight into the anomalies, paradoxes and inconsistencies in human behaviour and motivations, inviting the responder to see the world differently, challenge assumptions, ignite new ideas or reflect personally
- Consider the role of storytelling throughout time to express and reflect particular lives and cultures
- Context, purpose, structure, stylistic and grammatical features, and form shape meaning
Context of Slessor’s poems:
- Modernism & Australia’s involvement in WWII

Wild Grapes - Memories, time, loss, mortality

Context:
- Transience of life
- The poet reflects on a time that is past. His perception of that time is full of beauty and futility and emotional turmoil. There is a sense of longing for a time that will never be
- In comparing the grapes to Isabella, a gypsy woman from the poet’s past, he questions the complexities of desire

Theme: Mortality
Quotes: “the orchard tree"

Analyse/techniques:
- Presents an embodiment of the human life and the consciousness of mortality to which it personifies
- This particular phrase, represents the passage of time and the foundation to the many concepts that explore mortality, encompassing decay, lifelessness and desolation
- The old orchard has become a swamp and has lost its fertility
- Orchard was once kept and tended, a place of burgeoning life, but, like the human memory of this wonderful place, there is only the memory of this bountiful place left - the orchard has become sour and broken

Theme: Mortality
Quotes: “the old orchard, full of smoking air, full of sour march and broken boughs”

Analyse/techniques:
- Uses an accumulation of age descriptions to convey the passages of time and deterioration of the desolate tree
- Through this, emphasis is added to the awakening reality that time has limitations, and when it is at a phase of exhaustion, it is no longer capable of competency
- Hence, introducing a different notion into mortality that is much more morbid and pessimistic
- Adds emphasis to the very reality that time passes by and subjection to death is in close proximity
- Replicates the constant passage of time and its effect on living, tells a story about how things once were, therefore implying that the orchard tree was once bountiful
- Intended by Slessor to represent the human life, explaining how at the very start of life, like the orchard, is fruitful and full of life, though as it starts to mature the liveliness of the tree starts to fade and then it withers
- Like the orchard, the human entity does not live on forever

Theme: Mortality
Quotes: “Or Hartigans, long drowned in earth themselves”

Analyse/techniques:
- Convey his own interpretation of mortality. This metaphor evokes in responders, the consciousness of death and eventuality of burial in their lives
- The word ‘drowned’ conjures feelings of suffocation which has replaced the blooming sense of life that was once characterised by the orchard
- A different view of mortality is being made aware here, as responders begin to change their outlook on the very notion that the standard concepts surrounding mortality, are falsified to make death seem nonchalant
- Invites readers into the truths of life by presenting mortality it in its harshest and genuine form
- The human experience of mortality is approached by Slessor as an unfortunate susceptible event, that from birth, death and everything between, is full of discontent and lifelong decline of expectations
- Invite responders into a concept deviating from the normal fabricated ideas of mortality, he explores the truthful daunt of mortality, which sheds on the despondency and damage to which life brings
- Drowned in earth → water image for being buried
Paradoxical:
- Slessor’s ‘wild grapes’ through such quotes, are paradoxical in nature as they are absurd in meaning, but convey a truth to audiences in accordance to mortality and its limits
- Individuals constantly assure/concern themselves with the notion that their lives are forever immortal, and there are continuous opportunities for a magnitude of human experiences, although that is not the case
- Thus, these quotes act as evidence to ideas surrounding paradoxes and its complex contradictories

Inconsistency:
- May act as inconsistent, although leaning more towards paradoxical - As Slessor presents mortality in a harsh/ruthless way in which acts as a rude awakening to audiences
- Numerous individuals don’t see the true depths and grittiness to each of our lives/the extent of our mortality, thus 2 such meanings cannot exist side by side, acting as inconsistent
- 2 different perspectives are brought upon us in the poem

Match poem with:
- **Gulliver**: inevitability of trials and tribulations and mortality → Revelation that one’s mortality consists of the inevitability of trials and tribulations
- This may contribute to the extent to which individuals are truly mortal (time they live), and how they live out their lives because of the consistency of these arduous problems

- **Out of time**: Paradoxical nature of time and mortality → Time is of the essence, and is infinitely moving forward, which also acts as a key representation to mortality

- **Beach burial**: Grief/mourning and mortality → Mortality is made aware, especially in the context of war and the difficulties human bring upon themselves by creating such chaos and casualties

Gulliver - Literary illusion, intertextuality from a film called ‘Gulliver’s travels’

Context:
- Poet reflects on the desperation of human experience: at times situations we experience are so overwhelming that death seems a relief
- At times these experiences seem unbearable, perhaps because they often occur at once, and are therefore overwhelming
- Poem explores the central concept of Nihilism which is the idea that life no longer serves a purpose, it is meaningless
- Poem resembles an unchecked stream of consciousness flow where Slessor’s enraged protagonist voices genuine anguish of the modern man
- Slessor uses the story of Gulliver as a metaphor of man’s own imprisonment of the mind, how we allow our problems to consume our very thoughts to the point where it becomes debilitating

Theme: Inevitability of trials and tribulations

Quotes: “One hair i break, ten thousand hairs entwine me”

Analyse/techniques:
- Uses a hyperbole to elicit the constant repercussions of problematic situations. It is gathered that by untwining all the complexities of life experienced in the present, it only leaves more room for more complications
- Whilst there is an exaggeration present in the quote, a foreseeable truth to it is also strikingly visible, making it clear of how literal it is
- Slessor implies that the further people try to break free from/amend their problems, and the more they overcome arduous obstacles, the greater the extent to which the amount of problems are then catapulted at them
Theme: Inevitability of trials and tribulations
Quotes: “Tied up with stuff too cheap, and strings too many”

Analyse/techniques:
- Uses repetition of the word ‘too’ to add prominence in the abundance of things that confine Gulliver → both physical and psychological things that restrict him
- Also accentuates the disdain and irritation in Gulliver, who is completely bounded by the entanglements in which the human experience entails
- Slessor pushes into the notion that no-one is truly free from their convoluted minds, even when all physical objects are subtracted from their lives, they are still left with their encumbrance minds
- Done to induce an awakening of the criticality of problems and consistencies of them which can either result in triumph or a path of obstruction
- Disfigure the belief that problems are overcome easily and persistently overtime. It is in his ideas that responders can change their ways of thinking, by accepting the fact that problems are inescapable and are not overcome all the time

Theme: Inevitability of trials and tribulations
Quotes: “Love, hunger, drunkenness, neuralgia, debt”

Analyse/techniques:
- Accumulation of common shared human experience
- Universally shared human problems and burdens
- These shared human difficulties are all hardships faced by humans, love is also mentioned which is normally seen as something positive, although even in the midst of an emotional ‘bliss’, it has its own burdens
- Represents the universal problems that people encounter which occur repeatedly in their daily lives. Although the ubiquitous problems faced by individuals are of great simplicity, these reoccurring trials and tribulations can easily transpire into major destruction

Paradox:
- Individuals are told that such trials and tribulations faced/experienced in ones life are obstacles that can be constantly overcome and particularly easy if in the correct ‘mind set’
- This becomes paradoxical, as this mechanism can create more room for frustration, creating more obstacles, which becomes exhausting

Poem to match with:
- Wild grapes, out of time, vesper song of the reverend Samuel Marsden

Synthesis:
- Trials can lead to the close proximity of mortality, that being a susceptibility to the subjection of death
- The human experiences of mortality and inevitability of trials and tribulations are both represented similarly within these texts as Slessor communicates that through trials and tribulations and the ceasing of triumph, mortality is more likely to be tangible
- Not all people have the will to triumph all trials and tribulations in their lives, and that these everyday problems may dictate the extent of mortality to which individuals experience
- Denying of negative emotions leads to the experience of more prolonged pessimism and dysfunction, thus it is greatly important to challenge the mind of responders and create a willingness to change as the inability to take on new perspectives and grasp different concepts is dangerous and can lead to cyclical problems
- Gulliver: “Love, hunger, drunkenness, neuralgia, debt”
- Wild grapes: “the orchard tree”
- Gulliver presents the components to which mortality is made up of, with the listing of human experiences, whilst Slessor presents the orchard tree as the embodiment and symbol of human life
- Slessor presents the distaste of ones life, linking it to daily experiences and implying that even with moments of bliss, an individuals mortality is one of regret and disdain
William street - Kings cross, great depression, urban living in the chaos of the 20-30s, seems ugly but to him is beautiful

Context:
- Urban Living: Slessor creates vivid imagery of an iconic street in Sydney during the 1930s
- He challenges common ideas about William Street and Kings Cross as a place of ugliness due to the type of lifestyle people live there
- William Street and Kings Cross continue to be known for prostitution, drugs and criminal activity
- But Slessor sees beyond this in his ode to the street and its eclectic and bohemian lifestyle

Theme: Beauty in the chaos of urbanisation in the 20’s
Quotes: “You find this ugly, i find it lovely”

Analyse/techniques:
- Anaphora and repetition throughout the poem → adds emphasis on what he is implying
- Sees beauty in the chaos and mess of the 20’s during urbanisation and the recession
- Finds it beautiful seeing people trying to survive and persevere in a time of hardship for civilisation
- On the outside, to a third party, or another perspective the 20’s is disorderly and in disarray, Slessor finds it alluring and a place he can call home
- Challenges assumptions about the sights, smells and sounds of city life

Theme: Beauty in the chaos of urbanisation in the 20’s
Quotes: “red globe of light” and the “liquor green”

Analyse/techniques:
- Uses elemental imagery to draw links and attempt to destroy the demarcations (boundary and limits) between the human-made and “artificial” features of a city, and natural objects
- Multifaceted symbol of lights and energy and action – suggesting the vices of drinking and consuming sex work- are actually a beating heart and flowing energy of a city spilt on “stones” and that go “deeper than a stream”

Theme: Beauty in the chaos of urbanisation in the 20’s
Quotes: “death at their elbows, hunger at their heels” are striking, Slessor uses pastoral imagery through the words “ranging” and “pasturage”

Analyse/techniques:
- While the connotations of death and hunger in “death at their elbows, hunger at their heels” are striking, Slessor uses pastoral imagery through the words “ranging” and “pasturage” in a jarring and wry way to challenge the reader
- Suggesting that these people are just the natural inhabitants of William Street and they must do these things to survive, like livestock grazing in a pasture
- This challenges the reader, again in the refrain, to find beauty in the urban and justify the morality of activities in the city
- Slessor’s personal experiences with the city life are used to challenge the reader’s personal experience – inviting them to have another perspective on the human experience of city life as an individual and also collectively

Inconsistent:
- There is an underlying discrepancy present within the poem that possesses inconsistencies, Slessor believe William street - the product of a chaotic era - is beautiful to its entirety
- Thus proving its inconsistency as he present a different perspective in comparison to other’s

Poems to match with:
- Gulliver, wild grapes
Out of time - Time, force that can’t be controlled, collective human experience

**Context:**
- Life, death and loss: Slessor refers to the cycle of life: birth and death to represent the fragility of time, but also that it continues endlessly, despite human life
- Slessor echoes literary ideas, motifs and devices but fused it with water to better convey the ceaseless flow of time
- He stresses its significance by capitalising Time throughout the poem
- It is personified as ‘flowing’ and ‘thrusting’ its relentless onward progress, depicted as something beyond man’s control

**Theme:** Paradoxical nature of time

**Quotes:** “I saw time flowing like a hundred yachts”

**Analyse/techniques:**
- Simile, shows the speed in which time passes by, cannot be controlled
- Introduced at the start of the poem brings the reader back to the harsh truth, that time is unrelenting and while moments may offer brief respite, it seems that as always “the body dies and rots”, striking at an anxiety at the core of human experience – the impending doom that time brings us closer to death

**Theme:** Paradoxical nature of time

**Quotes:** “Eager to quench and ripen, kiss or kill”

**Analyse/techniques:**
- Paradox, time is inconsistent/uncertain of what it can do to you
- Time is unpredictable, unforeseeable
- Time is of the essence, can’t be taken for granted and doesn’t wait for others, thus it is the epitome of uncertainty and the outcomes can be destructive or requited for the individual

**Theme:** Paradoxical nature of time

**Quotes:** “fleshless and ageless, changeless and made free”

**Analyse/techniques:**
- The repetition of “-less” and the resonance of the repeated ‘e’ sounds in “fleshless and ageless, changeless and made free” links the words and their underlying concepts
- Which Slessor uses to suggest the ability for the Moment to liberate the persona from Time, and grant the persona, the reader and consequently humanity – a fleeting but true sense of immortality

**Poems to match with:**
- Gulliver, Wild grapes, Beach burial
Vesper-song of the reverend Samuel Marsden - human experience of the abuse of power and the potential for sadistic behaviour

Context:
- Slessor wrote a savagely satire poem, to expose the falsification of history
- Slessor used the Dramatic Monologue form to didactically raise public awareness of a particularly harsh period of Australian convict history
- He wanted to show the Reverend’s culpability (blame) in cruelly aggravating the suffering of convicts under his legal jurisdiction

Theme: Sadistic behaviour
Quotes: “Go lick and learn at these my boots!”
Analyse/techniques: Derogatory command - tone
- Derogatory command, severe punishment and making the felons under his control
- Using violence to wilt souls of convicts
- Abusing his power, contradictory because he believes in God
- Highlights the disturbing nature of the persona’s desires

Poems to match with:
- Gulliver, wild grapes

Beach Burial - Mourning dead soldiers, exploring the human experience of war through a depiction of an aftermath of conflict

Context:
- Slessor wrote the poem to commemorate the nameless dead who washed ashore after the battles at El Alamein in 1942
- Slessor depicts human experiences that dwell on memory and past events. He also explores other human experience issues, most notably death, but also time, the present, the future, place and war

Theme: Grief/mourning
Quotes: “As blue as drowned men’s lips”
Analyse/techniques:
- Symbols of blue further stir a strong sense of loss both in an objective level, but emotionally
- Blue represents sadness
- By using this highly emotive language and symbolism, Slessor uses sadness to challenge our understanding of conflict
- In doing so he brings us a strong, evocative subjective experience of war that can allow us to consider the futility of conflict that costs human life

Theme: Grief/mourning
Quotes: “sway and wander in the waters far under”
Analyse/techniques:
- The repetition of the ‘wa’ and ‘der’ sound in ‘sway and wander in the waters far under’ evokes the sense of the tides lapping the beach, immersing the responder in the sense of space
- By using this imagery of melancholy and stillness he creates a setting for the reader to reflect on the human experiences of loss of life and the collective experiences of the futility of war
Theme: Grief/mourning
Quotes: ‘pluck them from the shallows’, ‘tread the sand upon their nakedness’

Analyse/techniques:
- The use of indirect, gentle language evinced in the verbs of ‘pluck them from the shallows’ and ‘tread the sand upon their nakedness’ instead of using the words ‘drag’ or ‘dig’
- Reflects Slessor’s larger intention of writing about spaces between and after conflict – paradoxical for a war poem, suggesting that the loss and destruction is more keenly felt after, rather than during, the conflict

Poems to match with:
- Gulliver, Wild Grapes, Out of time

Scaffold of essay
Intro:
- Form a thesis statement (reword question, or disagree/agree with a statement)
- Introduce Slessor as a modernist poet who explores themes of _____ through stylistic features of ______
- Briefly define the ideas central to the thesis [body paragraphs] about searching for answers about existence or challenging perceptions of self, others and the world, as well as listing the techniques that communicate these ideas [imagery, metaphor, characterisation for example] that define his style
- Tailor it to the question

Body 1:
Point: Specific idea of the human experience, what theme it connotes to
Example (2 examples): Where do we see this point in the text? Be specific
Technique: Name/describe it
Analyse: how technique in the example represents the point, how it connects to the question and what is being said about the human experience
- What did the composer intend by doing this? How is the audience supposed to respond to this?
Link: Link to the question i.e what does it tell us about the Human experience - be specific
- What idea [one at a time] does Slessor present about searching for answers about existence OR challenging perceptions of self, others and the world?
- How is this idea explored in the poem? [quotes and technique analysis]
- Why are we learning about this regarding the essay question and the ‘human experience’ represented? What new idea is presented to us that makes us consider loss/grief/beauty in a new way?

Body 2:
Point: Specific idea of the human experience, what theme it connotes to
Example (2 examples): Where do we see this point in the text? Be specific
Technique: Name/describe it
Analyse: how technique in the example represents the point, how it connects to the question and what is being said about the human experience
- What did the composer intend by doing this? How is the audience supposed to respond to this?
Link: Link to the question i.e what does it tell us about the Human experience - be specific

Body 3: SYNTHESIS
Point: Specific idea of the human experience, what theme it connotes to
Example (2 examples): Where do we see this point in the text? Be specific
Technique: Name/describe it
Analyse: how technique in the example represents the point, how it connects to the question and what is being said about the human experience
- What did the composer intend by doing this? How is the audience supposed to respond to this?
Link: Link to the question i.e what does it tell us about the Human experience - be specific
Conclusion:
- Revisit the points made to reiterate your thesis agreeing or disagreeing [or both] regarding the question
- Restating the three body paragraph ‘why’s’ [links]
- End with a comment that revisits the question and comments on the ‘world’ of Slessor’s creation
  - one that reflects on _____ and _______ in a way that ________

Slessor’s poetry presents the perspective of the human experience of being ‘one of challenging perceptions of self, others and the world’ through the texts _______. Slessor, a modernist poet, explores the themes of ___________ throughout his poems, in the form of stylistic features. The central ideas addressed by Slessor in his poems communicates the perspective of the harsh realities that comes with the human experience. Mortality is perceived by Slessor in an extremely morbid and daunting way, which strays from the traditional sugar coated meanings that society has acclaimed. The inevitability of trails and tribulations in itself, is a concept made by Slessor to bring forth in audiences, a reaction to challenge perceptions of self, others and of the world. This is expressed through the techniques and themes which define his modernist writing style.

Slessor firstly introduces “the orchard tree” to present an embodiment of the human life and the consciousness of mortality to which it personifies. This particular phrase, represents the passage of time and the foundation to the many concepts that explore mortality, encompassing decay, lifelessness and desolation. This is evident in the line “the old orchard, full of smoking air, full of sour march and broken boughs, is there”, which uses an accumulation of age descriptions to convey the passages of time and deterioration of the desolate tree. Through this, emphasis is added to the awakening reality that time has limitations, and when it is at a phase of exhaustion, it is no longer capable of competency. Hence, introducing a different notion into mortality that is much more morbid and pessimistic. “Or Hartigans, long drowned in earth themselves” is another quote used by Slessor to convey his own interpretation of mortality. This metaphor evokes in responders, the consciousness of death and eventuality of burial in their lives. The word ‘drowned’ conjures feelings of suffocation which has replaced the blooming sense of life that was once characterised by the orchard. A different view of mortality is being made aware here, as responders begin to change their outlook on the very notion that the standard concepts surrounding mortality, are falsified to make death seem nonchalant, however Slessor invites readers into the truths of life by presenting mortality it in its harshest and genuine form. The human experience of mortality is approached by Slessor as an unfortunate susceptible event, that from birth, death and everything between, is full of discontent and lifelong decline of expectations. By doing this, Slessor automatically represents the human experience of one of challenging perceptions of self, others and the world through his own interpretation and understanding of mortality. Slessor’s perceptions of mortality are shown in ‘wild grapes’ through techniques which invite responders into a concept deviating from the normal fabricated ideas of mortality, he explores the truthful daunt of mortality, which sheds on the despondency and damage to which life brings.

‘Gulliver’ is another poem intended by Slessor to express the inevitability of trials and tribulations, inviting responders to challenge perceptions of self, others and the world. Slessor uses intertextuality of ‘gulliver’s travels’ to give context and uses it as a metaphor to the human life and the ropes which act as the symbol for the metaphysical and physical weights that people posses. “One hair i break, ten thousand hairs entwine me”, is a quote provided by Slessor that uses a hyperbole to elicit the constant repercussions of problematic situations. It is gathered that by untwining all the complexities of life experienced in the present, it only leaves more room for more complications. Whilst there is an exaggeration present in the quote, a foreseeable truth to it is also strikingly visible, making it clear of how literal it is. Slessor implies that the further people try to break free from/or amend their problems, and the more they overcome arduous obstacles, the greater the extent to which the amount of problems are then catapulted at them. Another quote that
emphasises on the inevitability of trials and tribulations is in the line “Tied up with stuff too cheap, and strings too many”. Slessor uses repetition of the word ‘too’ to add prominence in the abundance of things that confine Gulliver, these are both physical and psychological things that restrict him of being. It also accentuates the disdain and irritation in Gulliver, who seems to be completely bounded by the entanglements in which the human experience entails. Here, Slessor pushes into the notion that no-one is truly free from their convoluted minds, and even when all physical objects are subtracted from the lives of individuals, they are still left with their encumbrance minds. This is done to induce in responders, an awakening of the criticality of problems and the consistencies of them which can either result in triumph or a path of obstruction. Therefore, Slessor represents the perspective of the human experience as one of challenging perceptions of self, others and the world as he provokes responders through the theme of the inevitability of problems and techniques in his writing, in order to disfigure the belief that problems are overcome easily and persistently overtime. It is in his ideas that responders can change their ways of thinking, by accepting the fact that problems are inescapable and are not overcome all the time.

Similar themes are present within ‘gulliver’ and ‘wild grapes’, as both texts dually allow readers to challenge their perceptions of self, others and the world through themes of mortality and the inevitability of trials and tribulations. In wild grapes, Slessor uses the line “Who gave this bitter fruit their care”, as a symbol of the inherent human experiences of disparity, which is brought about by mortality. And in Gulliver, the quote “Love, hunger, drunkenness, neuralgia, debt, cold weather, hot weather, sleep, and age”, represents the universal problems that people encounter which occur repeatedly in their daily lives. Although the ubiquitous problems faced by individuals are of great simplicity, these reoccurring trials and tribulations can easily transpire into major destruction. Thus, alikeness is existent in both texts, as these trials can lead to the close proximity of mortality, that being a susceptibility to the subjection of death. The human experiences of mortality and inevitability of trials and tribulations are both represented similarly within these texts as Slessor communicates that through trials and tribulations and the ceasing of triumph, mortality is more likely to be tangible.

Kenneth Slessor uses both ‘wild grapes’ and ‘Gulliver’ to depict the perspectives of the human experience as one of challenging perceptions of self, others and the world through themes of mortality and the inevitability of trials and tribulations and stylistic features. It is that through understanding the falsified conceptions of mortality, and apprehending that not all people have the will to triumph all trials and tribulations in their lives, and that these everyday problems may dictate the extent of mortality to which individuals experience, only then can they learn to challenge their perceptions of self, others and the world. Hence, the perspective of the human experience as one of challenging perceptions of self, others and the world is presented in Slessor’s poems to invite readers into a world of Slessor’s creation. Whilst it may focus on the negativity to which life connotes, the denying of negative emotions leads to the experience of more prolonged pessimistic emotions and dysfunction, thus it is greatly important to challenge the mind of responders and create a willingness to change as the inability to take on new perspectives and grasp different concepts is dangerous and can lead to cyclical problems.