PAPER II
Section I — Module A: Language, Identity and Culture

Key terms/points:
- Language has the power to both reflect and shape individual and collective identity, how responses to written, spoken, audio and visual texts can shape their self-perception
- Language can be used to affirm, ignore, reveal, challenge or disrupt prevailing assumptions and beliefs about themselves, individuals and cultural groups
- Textual forms and conventions are used to communicate information, ideas, values and attitudes which inform and influence perceptions of ourselves and other people and various cultural perspectives
- Experiment with language and form to compose imaginative texts that explore representations of identity and culture

Theme: Racism and prejudice

Technique: A high angle shot

Analysis:
- Opening scene, where Albert’s daughter waves to Emily, and Emily waves back, only to have her mother force her hand down
- A high angle shot of Albert’s family is used to construct an image of someone insubstantial and inferior in comparison to that of Jim’s family who is an embodiment of superiority as indicated by society
- Also reveals the vulnerability of Albert’s family and their constant subjection to discrimination
- Reveals the learned behaviour of indirect forms of intolerance and racial discrimination from adults to children, and the challenging reality of unconscious doings of racism, ultimately addressed through the language form of camera shots
- Cultural perspectives: Entertains the notions that people of colour face discrimination and shadowed in societies

Technique: Mise-en-scene

Analysis:
- Mise-en-scene, another technique, utilises figure movement and expression in order to efficiently convey racism and prejudice
- The physical performances of characters like Rose, uses the force of hand on Emily to communicate the indifferences of the Indigenous people to their family and the supremacy their family upholds
- Mise-en-scene functions in order to express Rose’s prejudicial thoughts and the influence she has on Emily’s cognitive behaviour by denying her the right to do things as simple as wave, as an outcome of hostility towards Indigenous culture
- Cultural perspectives: Racial prejudice comes from learned behaviour and is not inherent, thus emitting the perspective that mannerisms can be toxic, especially those with negative connotations

Technique: Music - violin (non-diegetic music - sound added in)

Analysis:
- Racism and prejudice are additionally communicated in the scene where the white-anglo saxons are preparing in search of the missing child
- Once the indigenous tracker is introduced to Jim, he replies condescendingly with “now listen here, no blacks on my land, this is my property and I’m calling the shots”
- Music acts as a manoeuvre to aid tension and anticipation to what racial prejudice Jim is conveying, by means of the light strumming of the violin
Technique: Close up view
Analysis:
- Immediately after Jim speaks, the strumming ends abruptly, establishing the emphasis on his audacious play on words
- Employed to frame his emotions towards Albert, is a close up view showcasing the dominance of Jim adding prominence to his confronting facial expression
- This blatant racism is also accentuated by the fear of Albert’s knowledge and connection to the land, surpassing any knowledge he possesses, creating a threat
- Thus, coherently altering the presumptions of audiences on cultural groups and identities as it illustrates the truths of how self arrogance and conceitedness towards individuals and cultural groups may have detrimental ramifications through prejudicial actions

Technique: Repetition of “This land is mine”, Violin tremelo creates tension and suspense
Analysis:
- Repetition in high register, syncopated strumming of guitar quickens the tempo to a brisk walking pace to suit the ‘search’
- Male duet to juxtapose the two views of the land
- White man sings in higher register, ruling over the land and owning it
- Indigenous Australian sings in lower register, closer to the ground/earth because he is part of the land and owned by it
- Jim has a preconceived notion of the indigenous, and his racist by his own right, the land is something him and the Aboriginals value - although valued differently - Jim is intimidated

Theme: Loss
Technique: Music, sorrowful tune, dejected beats (Non-diegetic music - sound added in)
Analysis:
- The scene of the discovery of Emily through Albert and Rose, illustrates loss and uses music to efficiently do so
- A sorrowful tune is used instrumentally to depict the effect of Emily's death on Rose and the regret experienced as a result of discrimination towards the indigenous culture
- The accompaniment of dejected beats, adds emphasis on Rose’s emotions and conjures deep remorse for disregarding Albert to assist her through reasons connoting to race
- This demonstrates how music as a form of language, can challenge, affirm and display the preconceived notions about individuals and cultural groups, as it elucidates the fact that placing importance on the dissociation of cultures can essentially result in affliction

Technique: High driven angle shot
Analysis:
- A character driven high angle shot is also used to employ loss, showcasing that through the assimilation of Albert and Rose by means of death, it initiates the formation of two cultures slowly uniting
- The angle shot expresses the visceral emotions felt by Rose, the vulnerability of all three characters, dismissing of race, and for the first time, showcasing equality
- The angle adds to the narration of loss and immense sorrow, also symbolising the equal status/or position of both characters
- Validates that through apprehension of loss and empathy contrary to discrimination, cultural groups can be harmonious
- Pre-existing notions of unison and equality aren't discerned in conformed societies
- Directs the misconceptions on constant racial division at a different angle, and enables audiences to switch their conformed assumptions to that of realising that distinct cultures can assimilate and be of equivalence to one another
Technique: Song sung by an indigenous woman (non-diegetic music - sound added in)

Analysis:
- Final funeral scene has been employed in order to communicate loss. Unification between both cultures are distinguished in the scene where the Aboriginal woman is singing during the funeral of Emily
- Through means of the song sung by an Indigenous woman, it depicts the shared loss of both indigenous culture and the loss of Emily, both as an outcome of racism and prejudice, signifying unity and empathy in contrasting cultures
- Through tragic events exhibited on both sides, it reveals the correspondence of grief endured and the shared apprehension of loss
- Use of song as a language form, affirms and reveals that it can create an expanse for racial acceptance and dismissal of self hatred and prejudice towards the indigenous culture
- United by the tragedies of loss, it challenges assumptions that individual and cultural groups can in actuality accept one another and be civil, even in moments of demise
- Contradicting societal views of racial segregation and the marginalising of specific cultural groups, aiding in the construction of a different perspective rather than the forged view of race

Example A (20 marks)
Analyse how language is used in your prescribed text to express community identity

Example B (20 marks)
Explain how a text's form contributes to the way that it captures unique cultural perspectives.
In your response, make close reference to your prescribed text

Example C (20 marks)
Explain how sound and music contribute to the representation of identity and culture in One Night the Moon

One night the moon, a filmic opera produced by Rachel Perkins set in the 1930’s during the great depression, is a film which uses language to effectively affirm, reveal and challenge assumptions of both the individual and cultural groups. Distinct forms of language such as cinematography and techniques are effectual in the way they reveal reoccurring themes that disclose prevalent issues concerned with one's culture and identity. Through diverse forms of language, themes such as, racism, prejudice and loss are able to be expressed within the film, ultimately manipulating the significant extent to which an audience can construct challenging assumptions, beliefs and affirmations in regards to individual and cultural groups.

Apparent throughout the film, are themes of racism and prejudice, evident through the antagonist Jim and his inequitable actions towards the indigenous people. Racism and prejudice are made transparent in the opening scene, where Albert's daughter waves to emily, and emily waves back, only to have her mother force her hand down. A high angle shot of Albert’s family is used to construct an image of someone socially inferior in comparison to that of Jim's family who is an embodiment of superiority, as indicated by society, it also reveals vulnerability of the indigenous and their constant subject to discrimination. Affirming that learned behaviour through indirect intolerances and discrimination from adults, can ultimately reveal the challenging reality of unconscious doings of racism. As a result, uncovering the severe truths to audiences, surrounding the innate feelings to be discriminative by reasons of intimidation and acquired behaviour. Thus, affirming and challenging assumptions and beliefs about individual and cultural groups to a great extent, by altering their preconceived notions.
Matters concerning racism and prejudice are additionally communicated in the scene where the white-anglo saxons are preparing in search of the missing child. Once the indigenous tracker is introduced to Jim, he replies condescendingly with “now listen here, no blacks on my land, this is my property and I'm calling the shots”. Music acts as a manoeuvre to aid tension and anticipation to what racial prejudice Jim is conveying, by means of the light strumming of the violin. Immediately after Jim speaks, the strumming ends abruptly, establishing the emphasis on his audacious play on words. Employed to frame his emotions towards Albert, is a close up view showcasing the dominance of Jim, amplifying his malicious facial expression. This blatant racism is also accentuated by the fear of Albert’s knowledge and connection to the land, surpassing any knowledge he possesses, creating a threat. Thus, coherently altering the presumptions of audiences and efficiently revealing, affirming and challenging cultural groups and identities to a significantly large extent as it illustrates the truths of how self arrogance and conceitedness towards individuals and cultural groups may have detrimental ramifications through prejudicial actions. Which in return, evokes questioning in audiences.

Loss is also made evident by Perkins to explore that language through film can be used to affirm, reveal and challenge beliefs, justifying it to a significant extent. The scene of the discovery of Emily, illustrates loss efficiently through music. A sorrowful tune and the accompaniment of dejected beats are used instrumentally to depict the effect of Emily’s death on Rose, adding emphasis on the deep remorse and regret conjured, as a result of prejudice towards Albert. Demonstrating the large extent, music through film can challenge, affirm and display the preconceived notions about individuals and cultural groups, as it elucidates how placing importance on the dissociation of cultures can essentially result in affliction, additionally, provoking audiences to reflect on their own beliefs surrounding racism and its effects on loss. Employing loss, a high angle shot is also used to showcase that through assimilation of Albert and Rose by means of death, it initiates the formation of differing identities uniting. It also expresses equality and details the visceral emotions of Rose, adding to the narration of loss and equilibrium of both characters. Hence, revealing the substantial extent to which the film through language, affirms, reveal and challenges assumptions, validating that through apprehension of loss and empathy, cultural groups can be harmonious. This challenges individual presumptions as pre-existing notions of equality aren’t discerned in conformed societies. In that case, directing misconceptions on racial division at a different angle, enabling audiences to challenge their conformed assumptions to realising cultures can in fact assimilate and be of equivalence.

As a means to affirm and challenge presumptions to a large extent, the final funeral scene has been employed in order to communicate loss. Unification between both cultures are distinguished where the Aboriginal woman sings during Emily’s funeral. Through the medium of the song sung by an Indigenous woman, it depicts the shared loss of indigenous culture and the loss of Emily, dually as an outcome of prejudice. Thus, affirming that through tragic events exhibited on both sides, it reveals the shared apprehension of grief and loss endured. Use of song as a language form, attests and discloses that it creates an expanse for racial acceptance and dismissal of prejudice towards the indigenous culture. It challenges assumptions that individual and cultural groups can in actuality be civil, even in moments of demise. Thus aiding in the construction and challenging of assumptions by contradicting societal views on racial segregation and marginalising of the indigenous. Thereby, the extent to which the film affirms and challenges assumptions is highly significant, by displaying loss as a gateway to respect of both cultures, surpassing fabricated notions of cultural and individual identities having to be segregated in order for balance.

Therefore, Perkins through the filmic opera challenges and affirms assumptions and beliefs about both individuals and groups through language forms in which effectively represent the themes of racism, prejudice and loss. Through language forms, it deconstructs conformed and fabricated ideas of societal views on racial segregation and discrimination. Thus, enabling the significant extent to which the film affirms and challenges assumptions, through the constructing of perceptions and non-conformed ideas surrounding racial prejudice and loss in audiences.