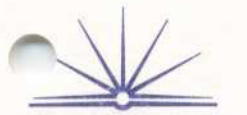


Section II, Question 3.

Perspective is the way people see things, it's their point of view. It has a major influence on life and the world we live in. It determines the way people make decisions, communicate with others and take actions. Perspective is influenced by some internal factors which include its origin, whether it is a subjective or an objective presentation of an issue. Other internal factors are individuality, personal history and culture which direct a person into believing or disbelieving a point of view. Perspective is further influenced by the medium through which it is presented. These factors are demonstrated in the set texts, Only the Heart; the video series, Through Australian Eyes; the piece of writing, Sky High and two other supplementary materials, the poem, Bombay and the newspaper article, Mothers of Sorrow. The respondents,



by analysing the communicated perspective, are influenced by its messages and inevitably they form a certain viewpoint.

In the series, *Through Australian Eyes*, the three travellers had different perspectives about their parents' homelands. Each one had her own reason to visit her parents' homeland depending on their identity, personal history and cultural beliefs. Jessie, for instance, was brought up in Australia among Indian people and she was taught the traditional ways of life as well as the Indian language. This made her confused about whether she is more Indian or Australian. She thought that India has its impressive side that a lot of Australians do not see on top of poverty and high population. This perspective is influenced by her involvement in culture and her personal history.

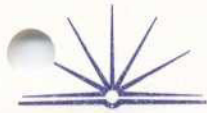
Ellen, however, could not speak Cantonese and she didn't feel completely Australian, nor completely Chinese. This suggests a lack of involvement in cultural practices. Her experience of visiting China influenced her perspective after she found a tangible evidence of her root in her mother's village. This made her secure about where she belongs in the world.

Duska had no suspicions about her identity. She wanted to know how people lived in Yugoslavia. Even though she felt completely Australian, there was a ~~touch~~ touch of Croatian blood that she felt when wearing the traditional costume. Her individuality tends to influence her perspective as she regarded her visit as a 'learning experience'.

The series uses visual media which is persuasive because it gives the live image.

of the situation. However, omitting some scenes can be employed to give a certain viewpoint. This is evident by showing historical relics and industries in China and nothing about politics and crime. Choosing presenters who are personally involved in the events, adds reality and interest to the series making ~~the~~ the show emotional rather than factual.

In the novel, *Only the Heart*, the perspective of the author about gangs is conveyed. The main point made is that regardless of the danger of gangs, these people are victims of some uncontrollable ~~circumstances~~ circumstances that lead them to be angry and frustrated and to seek care and affection within a group. This is obvious in the character, Cang, who was the toughest gang leader but in the same time he became the hero who saved Phoung from the fire.



Personal history ~~tends to~~ has a leading role in shaping ~~the~~ perspectives in the novel. This is evident through Link's opinion about people involved in gangs. She is sympathetic and understanding to their situation, unlike Miro, because she had been through similar experiences of loss and war as she quotes, 'Eighteen years old, living on the streets of Saigon from the age of thirteen, you'd learn to survive, anyway you had to.'

The novel employs a combination of first person and third person narration. This has the advantage of involving the reader in the flow of events by sharing the feelings of the ~~the~~ first person and knowing the whole situation through the third person.

The piece of writing, Sky High, depicts how age and life experience can change someone's way of looking at things.

The composer uses a variety of ~~des~~ descriptive words, ~~an~~ metaphors and similes to show the different perspectives of an adult and a child. The metaphoric description of the clothesline as, 'the best climbing tree', and 'exalted position' as well as 'I am flying' show how excited and overwhelmed a child is to climb the washing line. However, it does not amuse her as ~~an~~ an adult as it is described as, 'older' and 'more age-wrapped'. She tries to climb the clothes line again but there is hesitation and embarrassment as barriers. A child perspective is spontaneous while that of an adult is practical as mentioned, 'There are many things tying me to the ground.'

The poem, Bombay, by Jack Davis, which is taken from the book, Issues in Contemporary English, depicts that looking

at an issue from different perspectives is the only way of having a full understanding of it. This is evident when some wealthy strangers evaluate life in Bombay during their journey in a taxi through what they called 'the people-teeming streets'. They consider the Easterns ways of life responsible for these social problems. In the last stanza the poet reveals it is a narrow outlook to the issue judging things according to western standards only.

The newspaper article, Mothers of Sorrow, by Paul Toohay which was published in The Weekend Australian on 17/3/2001, is about Aboriginal mothers who spent their lives looking for their stolen children. A young lady, Olive Kennedy, who was one of these children always thought that her mother did not want her. Olive's view changed when she met

her mother and realised for how long she grieved her daughter's absence and how guilty she felt even though her daughter was stolen from her. This reveals that a certain perspective can be shaped by directing someone's outlook to a certain angle. Also, personal communication is sometimes essential to form a perspective about something.

The title, Mothers of Sorrow, reveals the writer's viewpoint which is sympathetic to the Aboriginal mothers. This outlook is also shown through the pictures of the mothers with sadness on their faces and their emotional words such as, 'It hurt me a lot inside taking my daughter away.'

→ These factors act on the composer and the respondents equally. In addition, the choice of media is very important to make an influence on the respondents.

In conclusion, perspective is presented in different materials which are constructed to deliver a certain message. This perspective is influenced by individuality, personal histories and cultures.