

SECTION C – Argument and persuasive language

Instructions for Section C

Section C requires students to write an analysis of the ways in which argument and language are used to persuade others to share a point(s) of view.

Read the background information on this page and the material on pages 14 to 15, and write an analytical response to the task below.

For the purposes of this task, the term ‘language’ refers to written, spoken and visual language.

Your response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria set out on page 16 of this book.

Section C is worth one-third of the total marks for the examination.

TASK

Write an analysis of the ways in which argument and written and visual language are used in the material on pages 14 and 15 to try to persuade others to share the points of view presented.

Background information

The local council of Derwen removed a number of giant ash trees alongside Lake Mawson Road in order to extend the highway to the nearby national park. The removal of these trees was proposed as a means to ease congestion and improve safety by creating overtaking lanes. Despite disapproval from local residents, the felling of trees began and local police were deployed to contain protestors.

In response to the event, two open letters were published in the Community Voice section of The Derwen Star, a local newspaper distributed in the township of Derwen. The first was written by local resident Anita Davis. The second text was written on behalf of the Derwen Residents Group.

SECTION C- continued

TURN OVER

THE DERWEN STAR



COMMUNITY VOICE

16th August, 2022

Too Late to Listen

On Monday, police stood by firmly, wearing earmuffs to block out the guttural noises of chainsaws. The occasion was the destructive clearing of giant ash trees along Lake Mawson Road.

Police stood with their backs turned to tree loppers and the choking screech of metal. They ignored the clouds of smoke and the ravenous teeth sinking into the soft and sacred flesh of our trees. These law enforcers had eyes only for the scores of locals. We stood opposite and blinked back tears as the beauty and history of our homeland was torn from the earth.

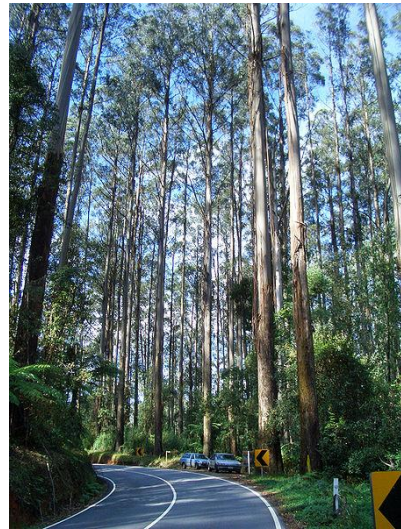
Three-hundred years of growth was obliterated. Our trees were taken, stolen, lost forever. The chains tightened and squeezed around my own heart with each chunk of dismembered wood that was unceremoniously lobbed into the back of a trailer. Our trees that were symbols of enduring and pulsing life became scattered fragments, destined to quickly burn in a fireplace. Are Australians doomed to forever neglect the rich and valuable history of our country? Will we again offer our too-late apologies hundreds of years after this sympathy would have been of use?

Giant ash trees are the emblem of Derwen shire. They took root in this land over three hundred years ago, long before our township was established. We crane our necks to try to perceive their towering mass as they stretch towards the heavens. The blossoming white branches at their peaks provide nests for wedge-tailed eagles. It is hard to believe these trees are still growing and yet to reach their final zenith.

Derwen claims to be a forward thinking shire with conservation at its heart. But mine was broken today. We cannot trust these councilors who have done nothing to protect our home. Our own citizens were turned against one another and the voices of protestors were silenced under threat of arrest and forceful restraint.

The Derwen council has sold its soul for the sake of extending a highway to save three minutes of travel time, ironically on the road to a national park. Our flora and fauna have been harmed and reduced.

Even tourists have been done a great disservice as their journey will now be a shorter trip to a reduced landscape.



- Anita Davis

Controversial Highway Project

The Derwen Residents Group has always advocated for the protection and preservation of our township. We recognise the damage the removal of giant ash trees along the Mount Lyall Highway poses to our native flora and fauna.

We have consulted with respected experts in environmental sciences as well as the Transport Minister with professionalism about this proposal. All of our actions and enquiries are made with the best interest of our community and landscape at heart.

We have found that the proposed highway extension will cause vast destruction to the ecology of Derwen that extends beyond the giant ashes themselves. This action should never have been approved in light of considerable community disquiet and the evidence provided by environmental experts.

Despite the success of local protestors in spreading their message through social and mainstream media, their concerns have been dismissed by the local council. Since the last council elections, the Derwen Residents Group has seen a dramatic decline in the willingness of the council to collaborate with and represent the views of their constituents.

We have come together as residents, researchers, parents, friends and artists to speak for and protect our native trees

2022 ENGLISH EXAM

and land. While all trees hold value, these giant mountain ash carry a history of more than 350 years that cannot be restored once lost. The council should be ashamed to not only witness, but to permit the unnecessary removal of our historic trees. Such callous decision-making reflects the government's ongoing disregard for the environment and the history of our nation.

Furthermore, the deployment of police and security to violently silence peaceful protest is an indictment on the Derwen Council. We implore the local government to move forwards rather than backwards by disbanding local forces and listening to the pleas of locals and academics. This current disregard for good sense must be condemned. We call on the local council to hear its community and urgently halt the felling of trees along Lyall Highway.

- Derwen Residents Group

Image source: Bob Beale, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6f/MountainAshWithCars.jpg>

END OF SECTION C
TURN OVER

Examination assessment criteria

Section A will be assessed against the following criteria:

- knowledge and understanding of the text, and the ideas and values it explores
- development of a coherent analysis in response to the topic
- use of textual evidence to support the interpretation
- control and effectiveness of language use, as appropriate to the task

[REDACTED]

Section C will be assessed against the following criteria:

- understanding of the argument(s) presented and point(s) of view expressed
- analysis of ways in which language and visual features are used to present an argument and to persuade
- control and effectiveness of language use, as appropriate to the task

END OF TASK BOOK