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English A: language and literature – Higher level – Paper 1
Anglais A : langue et littérature – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 1
Inglés A: Lengua y Literatura – Nivel Superior – Prueba 1

7 May 2026 / 7 mai 2026 / 7 de mayo de 2026

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

2 h 15 m

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write a guided analysis of text 1.
- Write a guided analysis of text 2.
- Use the guiding question or propose an alternative technical or formal aspect of the text to focus your analysis.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[40 marks]**.

Instructions destinées aux élèves

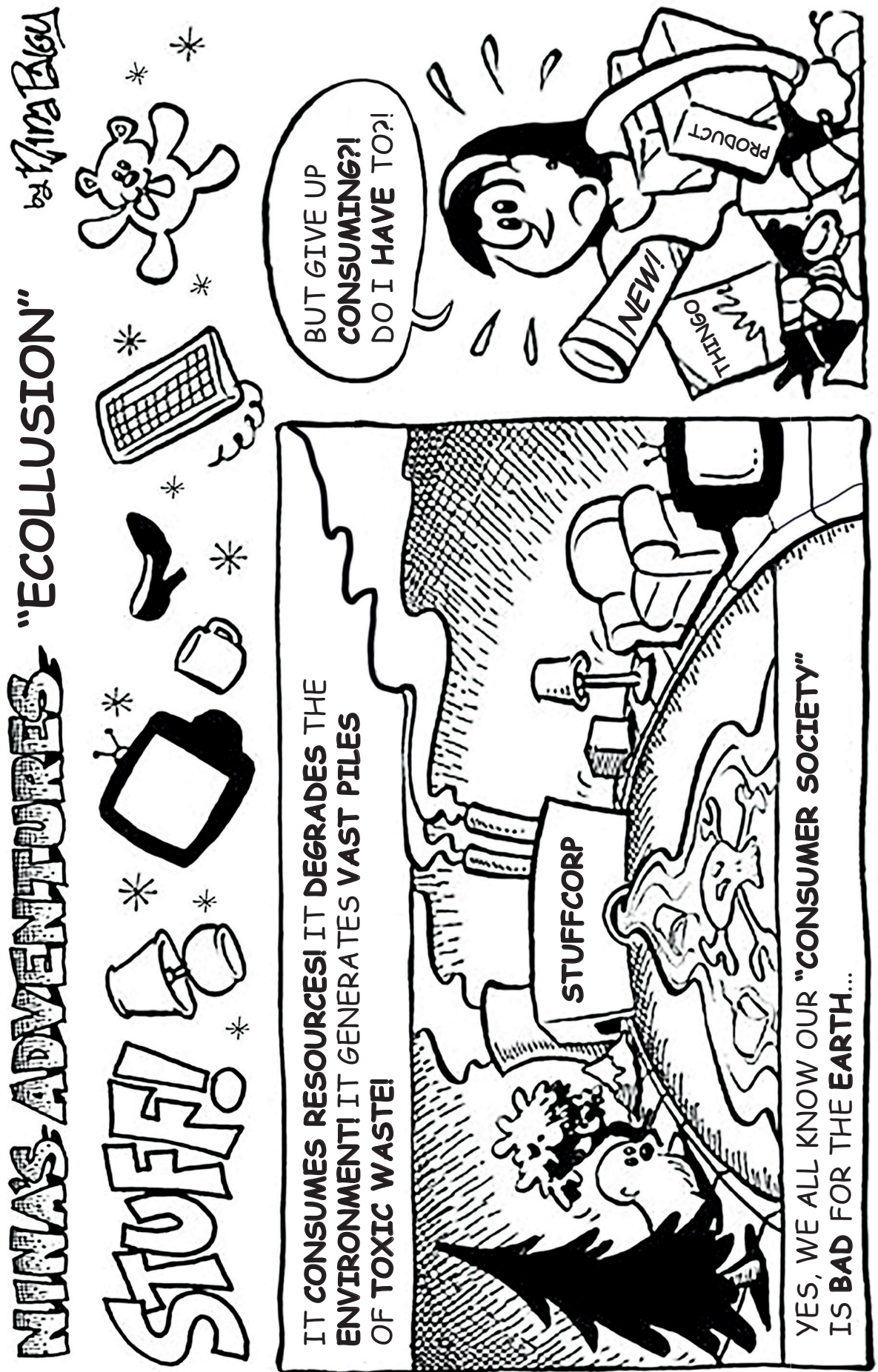
- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve d'examen avant d'avoir reçu l'autorisation de le faire.
- Rédigez une analyse dirigée du texte 1.
- Rédigez une analyse dirigée du texte 2.
- Utilisez la question d'orientation ou proposez une autre manière d'aborder le texte en choisissant un aspect technique ou formel sur lequel concentrer votre analyse.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[40 points]**.

Instrucciones para el alumnado

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un análisis guiado del texto 1.
- Escriba un análisis guiado del texto 2.
- Utilice la pregunta de orientación o proponga otro aspecto técnico o formal del texto en el que centrar su análisis.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[40 puntos]**.

Write a guided analysis of the following text.

1. The following is from *Nina's Adventures*, a semi-autobiographical comic strip by Nina Paley.





* markup: the amount added to the cost price of an item to create profit for the seller

- How and to what effect are text and image used in this comic strip?

Write a guided analysis of the following text.

- This blog entry—a concert review—was published by the Australian Youth Orchestra, an organization that provides training and performance programmes for aspiring musicians.



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AYO National Music Camp 2024: Concert Review 1

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AYO Blog

AYO National Music Camp 2024: Concert Review 1

By Caitlin Annesley

"World-class". "Amazing". "Virtuosic¹". These oft-quoted adjectives are the coveted descriptions of elite orchestral performance. The AYO National Music Camp orchestras achieved all of these in a glorious concert comparable to a top-tier professional ensemble.



Listening to the teenaged Bishop Orchestra playing Ligeti's *Concert Românesc* under Toby Thatcher was a rollercoaster, such was the musical G-force² exerted on the audience's ears. Amidst brief movements of calm, portrayed by excellent solos from the cor anglais³ and horns, the orchestra's performance of this short piece was shocking. Shockingly good, that is. Under Thatcher, the orchestra played with frightening intensity, producing sounds that elicited gasps from this reviewer. The concertmaster⁴'s daredevil solo was otherworldly in its brazen energy, producing smiles from his colleagues. This was a gut-punch of an opening to a remarkable evening.

Led by violinist Sophie Rowell, the Brislan Chamber Orchestra's performances of Melody Eötvös's *Meraki* and Suk's *Serenade for Strings* held a delicately ethereal⁵ contrast to the Bishop Orchestra's earth-shattering introduction. This ensemble showed the refinement of an experienced professional group, producing a consistently gorgeous sound across a huge dynamic range.

The Alexander Orchestra was the musical equivalent of a brisk morning run after the evening calm of the Brislan ensemble, spirit characterising their performance of Enescu's *Romanian Rhapsody*. Conductor Ariel Zuckermann took this folk-inspired work at a daringly frantic pace which his youthful band proved more than capable of following. This rousing showpiece was followed by an immersive performance of Lutosławski's *Concerto for Orchestra*. The reviewer was pulled into a universe of music where all words were lost.

"It's good—for a youth orchestra," is a demeaning description sometimes thrown at young musicians. But this was world-class, amazing, virtuosic music-making. And achieved in one week.

That's not just good for a youth orchestra. It's good for an orchestra.



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- ¹ virtuosic: displaying exceptional technical musical skills
² G-force: gravitational force
³ cor anglais: a woodwind instrument also known as the English horn
⁴ concertmaster: principal first violin player
⁵ ethereal: extremely delicate and light in a way that seems not of this world

– How and to what effect does the text use descriptive language?

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References/Références/Referencias:

1. Paley, N., 1999. *Ecollusion*. [cartoon] Available at: <https://www.vhemt.org/paleyart.htm> [Accessed 5 August 2025]. Source adapted.
2. Annesley, C., 2024. AYO National Music Camp 2024: Concert Review 1. *Australian Youth Orchestra*, [online] Available at: <https://ayo.com.au/ayo-national-music-camp-2024-concert-review-1/> [Accessed 12 March 2025]. Source adapted.