



ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT

ATAR course sample examination

Recording transcript

This is the Year 12 Sample ATAR examination in English as an Additional Language or Dialect, Section One: Listening.

You will hear **two** texts. Each text will be played twice. There will be a short pause between the first and second readings. After the second reading, there will be time to answer the questions.

You may make notes at any time. Your notes will not be marked. You may come back to this section at any time during the working time for this paper.

Text 1 will begin in **one** minute. Use this time to read the Questions for Text 1.

(1 minute silence)

Text 1: An interview with paralympian, Dylan Alcott (First reading)

Listen to this radio interview and answer Questions 1 to 7.

I am the first voice you will hear. I am the interviewer.

I am the second voice you will hear, reading the part of paralympian, Dylan Alcott, based on an interview he did on the ABC with Kurt Fearnley about how sport opened doors, and maybe saved his life.

Interviewer: Welcome back to our series highlighting the achievements of remarkable Australians. Today we are joined by dual paralympic gold medallist, Dylan Alcott. Dylan has won gold in not one, but two different sports; in wheelchair basketball at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, and in wheelchair tennis at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. Apart from his sporting achievements, Dylan works as a radio and TV host, as a sports commentator, runs a not-for-profit company, manages a music festival, called *Ability Fest*, and has launched *Able Foods*, a food company designed to support the nutritional needs of people with disabilities. Welcome to our program, Dylan!

Dylan: Hi Jessica, thanks for having me.

Interviewer: Firstly, congratulations on being the first male tennis player to win a Golden Slam – that is, winning all four major tennis tournaments and an Olympic gold medal all in the same year. A fantastic achievement!

Dylan: Thanks Jessica. When I started playing tennis at 11 years of age, I never would have thought such achievement possible. Until my first tennis tournament I had never even seen someone in a wheelchair be able to drive a car. I didn't realise that would ever be an option for me. Forget all the gold medals and everything; the biggest thing tennis has given me is a sense of belonging, but has also taught me to be proud of who I am.

Interviewer: So, is it fair to say that sport has given you a sense of purpose and a set of goals for your life?

Dylan: Absolutely! I never had a goal before. I was sitting at home, eating junk food and dreading going to school. Sport started me on the journey to be where I am today.

Interviewer: And now you are one of Australia's most recognisable para-athletes. Let's talk about the role you have played in enhancing how disabled people are represented, both in and out of sport.

Dylan: Sure. When I was growing up, there were no disabled people in the media that I could look up to. I would turn on the TV or radio, or look at the newspaper, but I never saw anyone like me. That's what I struggled with the most. I loved Pat Rafter, the great Australian tennis player, but I couldn't be like Pat Rafter. We were different. And there was nobody like me. I thought: 'I want to change that' and I think that has been my driving force ever since.

Interviewer: Although you have been very successful, I'm sure you have faced some discrimination along the way.

Dylan: Oh yes. Being disabled sucks sometimes. I was bullied at school and called names. And because of my disability, I am used to people expecting less of me. Last year, for example, the authorities wouldn't let me board a plane because they thought I wouldn't be able to handle rough weather! So, even though I am lucky to be a paralympian and people might know who I am, I am also a person with a disability who faces discrimination day-to-day as well. And I worry that if this is happening to me, imagine what's happening to any other disabled person who doesn't have a platform and a voice.

Interviewer: Indeed. And you have just announced that your music festival *Ability Fest* is back for another year. What inspired you to set up a music festival?

Dylan: Well I always loved going to music festivals. There are images of me crowd surfing in my wheelchair all over the internet. But again, it's often a hard thing to do with a disability and some venues don't have access for disabled people, so they are excluded. I thought, why not just design a festival myself! So we include elevated viewing platforms, pathways to make the ground more even, ramps to all areas and obviously more accessible toilets.

Interviewer: So it really is a music festival designed for everybody.

Dylan: Yes! It's just a special day. Able-bodied people come too. It's a normal music festival; we have just added accessibility features to make it inclusive of everyone and all for a good cause.

Interviewer: So what happens to the money collected at the event?

Dylan: It all goes to helping young Australians with disabilities fulfil their potential through our grant program. So far the festival has raised half a million dollars to go to helping kids get to the paralympics, to paying for university studies and even funding start-up businesses to help them achieve their dreams.

Interviewer: That is truly amazing. It is no wonder you have been awarded an Order of Australia medal. Dylan Alcott, thank you so much and good luck for your next match.

Dylan: Thanks, Jessica.

Interviewer: That was Australian Paralympian, Dylan Alcott. Listen next week when we will interview another amazing Australian.

(1 minute silence)

Text 1: (Second reading)

Now answer Questions 1 to 7.

(2 minutes silence)

Text 2 will begin in **one** minute. Use this time to read the Questions for Text 2.

(1 minute silence)

Text 2: Are female writers taken seriously? (First reading)

Listen to this lecture and answer Questions 8 to 15.

I am the voice you will hear. I am the lecturer.

Throughout the 19th Century, many female writers adopted male pen names. One well-known example is Emily Brontë, who wrote the novel, *Wuthering Heights*, published under the male name, Ellis Bell. Why did so many female writers choose to use male names? Because writing, as a profession was thought to be an unsuitable occupation for women. Writing fiction for money was seen as a most unladylike activity. Many female writers disguised themselves as male because they wanted to be judged on the merits of their writing, rather than judged simply on being women. Even today, there are many female writers who are hesitant about publishing as women, still concerned as to how their work will be received, and if their books will be dismissed by men. Joanne Rowling, best known as the author of the Harry Potter fantasy series that sold more than 500 million copies, becoming the best-selling series in history, published under the pen name J.K. Rowling. You can thank her publishers for that. They didn't think that a book by a woman would appeal to the target audience of young boys, so they suggested she go by two initials to hide her gender.

Because of this concern, the relationship between the gender of a writer and the gender of the reader has been the subject of investigation to find out exactly who is reading what, if men are reading books written by women, if female writers can write as well as men and if what they have to offer is considered less important than what men have to say.

It turns out that for the top ten best-selling female authors, only 19 per cent of their readers are men, compared with 81 per cent, women. All five of the top bestselling literary novels in 2017 were written by women and women made up nine of the top ten. It appears that women excel at writing literary fiction and their work certainly appeals to female readers. And the irony is that even though men read fewer of these literary novels by women writers, when they do choose to read a book written by a woman, they rate it higher than one written by a man. This suggests that if men could overcome their resistance to reading books written by women, they would discover that women can offer them just as good a reading experience as men.

As for non-fiction, it is favoured by more male readers than female, and it is suggested that men don't value female writers of non-fiction as much as male ones. It is also suggested that the topics and subjects that women write about do not appeal to men as much as they do to women readers. The reality, however, is that there are many successful and highly regarded non-fiction books written by females on topics normally considered to be for men, such as the enormous number of scientific books published by highly respected women in such fields as Astronomy that are accepted and read by men.

So, is there really a problem with male attitudes towards female writers? While men don't seem to be interested in reading women's fiction, it is undeniable that literature written by females explores female stories, female ideas, experiences and imagination, including female experiences with, and attitudes toward men. If men don't read this wealth of literature written by women, they are missing out, not only on an opportunity to better understand and appreciate women and their unique perspective on life, but also to better understand themselves. Rather than contributing to mutual understanding, the fear is that the gender divide will only increase, with the possibility of dysfunctional male/female relationships, more domestic violence and with men continuing to think that the only important perspective on the world is through male eyes.

Female writers will also be adversely affected if men do not read their work, because they will be considered less important than men and so will command less status and earn less money than men.

In the end, focusing on the gender of the writer should not matter as much as focusing on the gender of the reader. Regardless of whether you are male or female, you should be encouraged to read work written by both genders in order to broaden your mind and overcome prejudice. The more perspectives we encounter, the richer our understanding of life.

Text 2: (Second reading)

Now answer Questions 8 to 15.

(1 minute silence)

This is the end of Section One.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Text 1** Information from: Fearnley, K. (2020, July 23). *Dylan Alcott tells Kurt Fearnley on One Plus One how sport opened doors, and maybe saved his life*. Retrieved September, 2021, from <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-23/how-sport-saved-wheelchair-tennis-champ-dylan-alcotts-life/12476444>
- Information from: Ability Fest. (2021). [About Ability Fest]. Retrieved September, 2021, from <https://www.abilityfest.com.au/about>
- Text 2** Information from: Buzwell, G. (2020). *Women writers, anonymity and pseudonyms*. Retrieved October, 2021, from <https://www.bl.uk/womens-rights/articles/women-authors-and-anonymity>

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