



**Upper secondary
Week 18**

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES

Section C



Section C

[25 Marks]

Text 3

The text below is about tattoos. Read it carefully and answer Questions 14 – 19.

- 1 The word 'tattoo' is actually derived from the Polynesian word 'tataw' and gradually modified by the English to present day 'tattoo'. A tattoo is a form of body modification, made by inserting indelible ink into the dermis layer of the skin to change the pigment typically with a design motif. Tattoos become long lasting when the ink is injected deep into the dermis which is the layer of skin below the epidermis. Unlike epidermis skin cells that continually sheds throughout a person's lifetime, the fibrous dermis cells are more stable; providing elasticity and strength to the skin. 5
 - 2 Whereas traumatic or natural tattoos are 'non-voluntary' being obtained by accident injuries in particular from asphalt in road accidents, and are particularly difficult to remove as they tend to be spread across several different layers of skin, several other tattoos like the amateur or professional one are undertaken voluntarily as a means of self-expression, or to be recognised as a gang member or may even be as reminders of experiences. 10
 - 3 The most common method of tattooing in modern times is the electric tattoo machine, which inserts ink into the skin via a single needle or a group of needles that are soldered onto a bar. This bar is attached to an oscillating unit. The unit rapidly and repeatedly drives the needles in and out of the skin, usually 80 to 150 times a second. This modern procedure is ordinarily sanitary. The tattoo artist must wash his or her hands and the area that will be tattooed. Gloves must be worn at all times and the wound must be wiped frequently with a wet disposable towel of some kind. It may only take a few hours to get a tattoo. 20
 - 4 However, because it requires breaking the skin barrier, tattooing carries health risks including infection and allergic reactions. In amateur tattooing, such as that practised in prisons, however, there is an elevated risk of infection. Infections that can theoretically be transmitted by the use of unsterilized tattoo equipment or contaminated ink include surface infections of the skin, fungal infections, some forms of hepatitis, herpes simplex virus, HIV, and so on. 25
 - 5 Since antiquity, tattoos have always had negative connotations serving as judicial or servitude marks. In historical China, criminals were marked by tattooing. In Japan, tattoos were banned until 1948, not least because of its links to a mafia-like organisation the Yakuza. Today, In the United States, many prisoners and criminal gangs use distinctive tattoos to indicate facts about their criminal behavior, prison sentences, and organizational affiliation. A teardrop tattoo, for example, can be symbolic of murder, or each tear represents the death of a friend. 30
 - 6 Today, tattoos have remained a taboo in Chinese society. The negative social stigma attached to tattoos has led to attempts to remove such permanent inscriptions. 35
- A poll conducted in January 2012 by Harris Interactive reported that 1 in 7 (14%) of the 21% of American adults who have a tattoo regret getting one. The poll didn't

report the reasons for these regrets, but a poll that was done 4 years prior reported that the most common reasons were "too young when I got the tattoo" (20%), "it's 40 permanent" and "I'm marked for life" (19%), and "I just don't like it" (18%).

- 7 The expense and pain associated with removing tattoos are typically greater than the expense and pain associated with applying them. Laser tattoo removal is uncomfortable - many patients say it is worse than getting the tattoo on. The pain is often described to be similar to that of hot oil on the skin, or a "snap" from an elastic 45 band. Depending on the patient's pain threshold, and while some patients may forgo anaesthesia altogether, most patients will require some form of local anaesthesia. Some wearers decide to cover an unwanted tattoo with a new tattoo. This is commonly known as a cover-up.

14. (i) What is a tattoo? [1]

(ii) What does the use of the word 'indelible' in line 3 to describe the ink tell you about tattoos? [1]

15. With reference to paragraph 2, explain why non-voluntary tattoos are different from voluntary ones. [1]

Non-Voluntary	
Voluntary	

16. Here is a part of a conversation between two students, Haikel and Margaret, who have read the article.



- (i) Identify two reasons from paragraph 3 to support Haikel's view. [2]

- (ii) How would Margaret explain her statement with reference to paragraph 7? [1]

17. (i) At the beginning of paragraph 4 (line 21), what is the skin's 'barrier' referred to here ? [1]

- (ii) From paragraph 4, what makes tattooing a risky venture? [1]

18. (i) From paragraph 5 (line 27), what does the phrase 'negative connotations' imply about tattoos? [1]

- (ii) Which word in paragraph 5 has the same meaning as 'offensive'? [1]

19. Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the drawbacks inherent in getting a tattoo taking into account the processes, societal view on them and the motivation to remove them.

Use only information from paragraphs 3 to 7.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

Despite the excitement surrounding the procurement of a tattoo, there are many minuses associated with acquiring, retaining and removing them...

No. of words [15]