

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

English Language

International Advanced Level

Unit 3: Crafting Language (Writing)

Wednesday 6 June 2018 – Morning

Source Booklet

Paper Reference

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Topic: The Oscars

The following texts all deal with The Oscars – the annual prize-giving ceremony run by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles, California.

Text A: This is an edited extract taken from www.filmsite.org.

The Top Oscar Award Winners:

Number of Oscars® won	Movie title	Year
11	<i>Titanic</i>	1997
11	<i>Ben-Hur</i>	1959
11	<i>The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King</i>	2003
10	<i>West Side Story</i>	1961
9	<i>The English Patient</i>	1996
9	<i>Gigi</i>	1958
9	<i>The Last Emperor</i>	1987
8	<i>Gone With The Wind</i>	1939
8	<i>From Here to Eternity</i>	1953
8	<i>On The Waterfront</i>	1954
8	<i>My Fair Lady</i>	1964
8	<i>Gandhi</i>	1982
8	<i>Amadeus</i>	1984
8	<i>Cabaret</i>	1972
8	<i>Slumdog Millionaire</i>	2008
7	<i>Dances with Wolves</i>	1990
7	<i>Schindler's List</i>	1993
7	<i>Out of Africa</i>	1985
7	<i>The Sting</i>	1973
7	<i>Patton</i>	1970
7	<i>Lawrence of Arabia</i>	1962
7	<i>The Bridge on the River Kwai</i>	1957
6	<i>All About Eve</i>	1950
6	<i>La La Land</i>	2016
6	<i>Forrest Gump</i>	1994
6	<i>Star Wars</i>	1977
6	<i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i>	2015

Text B: This text is taken from the website of *The History Channel*.

The First Academy Awards Ceremony

On May 16th, 1929, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences handed out its first awards, at a dinner party for around 250 people held in the Blossom Room of the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, California.

The brainchild of Louis B. Mayer, head of the powerful MGM film studio, the Academy was organized in May 1927 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and improvement of the film industry. Its first president and the host of the May 1929 ceremony was the actor Douglas Fairbanks Sr. Unlike today, the winners of the first Oscars – as the coveted gold-plated statuettes later became known – were announced before the awards ceremony itself.

At the time of the first Oscar ceremony, sound had just been introduced into film. The Warner Bros. movie *The Jazz Singer* – one of the first “talkies” – was not allowed to compete for Best Picture because the Academy decided it was unfair to let movies with sound compete with silent films. The first official Best Picture winner (and the only silent film to win Best Picture) was *Wings*, directed by William Wellman. The most expensive movie of its time, with a budget of \$2 million, the movie told the story of two World War I pilots who fall for the same woman. Another film, F.W. Murnau’s epic *Sunrise*, was considered a dual winner for the best film of the year. German actor Emil Jannings won the Best Actor honor for his roles in *The Last Command* and *The Way of All Flesh*, while 22-year-old Janet Gaynor was the only female winner. After receiving three out of the five Best Actress nods, she won for all three roles, in *Seventh Heaven*, *Street Angel* and *Sunrise*.

A special honorary award was presented to Charlie Chaplin. Originally a nominee for Best Actor, Best Writer and Best Comedy Director for *The Circus*, Chaplin was removed from these categories so he could receive the special award, a change that some attributed to his unpopularity in Hollywood. It was the last Oscar the Hollywood maverick would receive until another honorary award in 1971.

The Academy officially began using the nickname Oscar for its awards in 1939; a popular but unconfirmed story about the source of the name holds that Academy executive director Margaret Herrick remarked that the statuette looked like her Uncle Oscar. Since 1942, the results of the secret ballot voting have been announced during the live-broadcast Academy Awards ceremony using the sealed-envelope system. The suspense – not to mention the red-carpet arrival of nominees and other stars wearing their most beautiful or outrageous evening wear – continues to draw international attention to the film industry’s biggest night of the year.

Text C: This article, taken from an Australian news website, news.com.au, in 2016, reports on changes to the membership of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Academy tries to rectify #OscarsSoWhite with 683 new members

SEVERAL famous Australians, including Lachlan and James Murdoch and actress Rose Byrne, have been invited to join one of the world's most illustrious clubs.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced it's recruiting a record 683 new members to try to diversify its largely male and white membership.

A furore erupted in January, 2016 when the academy announced its nominees for February's awards ceremony and for the second straight year black actors were snubbed.

The academy went global in its new search, with at least 13 of the 283 international invitees Australian, although most were white.

Joining the Murdochs and Byrne on the list are horror film director James Wan and the large contingent of Australian crew members who won Oscars this year for their work on George Miller's *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

They include production designers Colin Gibson and Lisa Thompson, editor Margaret Sixel, make-up and hairstyling artist Lesley Vanderwalt, sound mixer Ben Osmo, sound editor David White and visual effects expert Tom Wood.

Australian make-up artist Dave Elsey, who won the Oscar in 2011 for *The Wolfman*, and cinematographer Adam Arkapaw, also received invites, along with Kiwis Cliff Curtis and Taika Waititi.

The academy's membership is 90 per cent white and 75 per cent male.

Of the 683 new invitees, 46 per cent are female and 41 per cent are people of colour.

With the addition of the new members being invited, the academy's female membership will rise from 25 per cent to 27 per cent and for people of colour from eight per cent to 11 per cent. "We're proud to welcome these new members to the academy, and know they view this as an opportunity and not just an invitation, a mission and not just a membership," academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs said.

Glossary

Kiwis – people from New Zealand

Text D: This is an extract taken from www.screenrant.com which discusses the 2017 Academy Award for Best Picture.

Why *Moonlight* Won the Oscar for Best Picture

Much had been written about the inevitable *La La Land* sweep. With 14 nominations under its belt it seemed to have the pitch-perfect Oscar narrative from production to podium: An old-school musical homage to Hollywood directed by a hot young talent, featuring two adored stars singing and dancing in a dazzling feat of technical skill.

Moonlight's win is something of a rarity for the Oscars – it's the best film nominated in the category, and it actually won. In a business where campaigning is king, and *La La Land* swept the major awards preceding it, there wasn't much hope for the tiny budget indie that, while critically adored, reached a fraction of the audiences. Yet it had a great team behind it, like any Oscar hopeful, and this year that work paid off.

A24, the distributor of *Moonlight*, has been making an incredible impact on the indie market since its inception in 2012. They hadn't had a major chance to carry out a significant awards campaign until *Moonlight*, and many thought that lack of experience would impede *Moonlight*'s efforts. The filmmakers also threw everything they had into the campaign trail. Mahershala Ali, who took home Best Supporting Actor, was a regular on chat shows and magazine covers, bringing much needed visibility to the film, and the tiny film with its quiet, contemplative storytelling became a mainstay at awards, particularly ones voted on by critics.

The Oscars is the only major film award voted upon by those who make up the industry. Historically, its voters have been mostly white, male and older, and usually originating from the acting side of the business. That meant certain types of films were more likely to be noticed – flashier affairs where the hard work is evident. Yet the Academy is changing. The Academy vowed to greater diversify its membership and double its minority voters by 2020. Last Summer, Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs announced 683 new members: 41% were people of colour and 46% were women.

Moonlight is an outlier in many ways – its story focuses on a group of society that is seldom represented on film, it has an exclusively black ensemble and was written and directed by black men (only 4 black directors have ever been nominated for the Best Director award, and it is notable that while *Moonlight* won Picture, Jenkins did not win here), and it avoids flashy storytelling and film-making. It is a gentle movie of incredible empathy, where dialogue is sparse yet potent, and close-ups do most of the work. It is the antithesis of an Oscar film, but it was inarguably the best film of the year, and one that will be considered a masterpiece in the years to come.

Glossary

indie – an independent small budget film production

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