Advice

• Read the texts before answering the questions in Section A of the question paper.
This is an extract from an obituary written by Tony Russell and published in the Guardian newspaper. It describes the musical career of an American singer, “Little” Milton Campbell.

Although he started out in music in the same place and at the same time as BB King, Ike Turner and Elvis Presley, “Little” Milton Campbell, who has died aged 70, escaped the confines of blues or rock 'n' roll to become a spokesman, through soul music, for the entire African-American community.

He was born in Inverness, Mississippi, a town less than 10 miles from Indianola, and near Leland. His first public appearances, singing and playing guitar, were in the clubs of Leland and nearby Greenville's notorious Nelson Street. At 16, he followed the example of BB King, who was nine-years-older, and tried his luck in Memphis.

Before he was 20, Milton had made several records for Sam Phillips's Sun label. They were a heady* brew of shameless imitation and lawless bravado; several of his vocals were blatantly modelled on King, but he also seemed to have an ear cocked to another local contemporary, Bobby Bland.

Milton's guitar playing was decidedly original, all spiky lines and muddy tone. Like Ike Turner, who had produced and played on those records, he moved on to East St Louis, where there were grooming stables of blues and soul artists.

Milton's seven releases on Bobbin were well received, but it was his move, in 1962, to the larger Chess label, in Chicago, that accelerated his progress through the ranks of up-and-coming blues singers. Milton neither wished nor intended to be typecast as a blues singer.

“In order to be successful at this,” he noted in an interview with Living Blues magazine, “you have to be versatile.” When We’re Gonna Make It went to the top of the R&B chart in the spring of 1965 – Milton was established as one of the leading figures in soul blues.

In the early 1970s, Milton made a logical move for anyone working to the templates of soul and blues, and signed with Stax Records. During a five-year period, he produced numerous records that were both artistically satisfying and quite successful in the R&B charts, but he cannily** retained the affection of older and more blues-inclined listeners with the passionate blues preaching of Blue Monday or The Thrill Is Gone.

Milton had always kept close ties with the region where he grew up, and would regularly appear both at small clubs and festivals in Mississippi and Arkansas. In 1984, he joined Malaco, the southern soul label based in Jackson, Mississippi. During the next 20 years, he recorded more than a dozen albums.

Like BB King, too, Milton presided over a recorded conference with younger artists, titling it Welcome To Little Milton and pleasing his English fans by including a photograph of the roadsign for that quiet Oxfordshire village. His last album, Think Of Me, was issued recently, and one of his last performances was earlier this year at the Barbican, London.

He suffered two strokes last month and had been in hospital in Memphis ever since. His wife, Pat, survives him.
• Milton Campbell, blues and soul singer, born September 7 1934; died August 4 2005

*heady* - strong
**cannily** - cleverly
Extract from ‘Really the Blues’ by “Mezz” Mezzrow and Bernard Wolfe (1946).

This extract is taken from the section ‘Got the Heebies, Got the Jeebies’. In this extract Mezz describes taking his friend Dave to see the jazz singer Bessie Smith perform.

Bessie had such a ringing vibration in that voice of hers, and her tones boomed out so clear and clanging full, you could hear her singing all the way down the street. There was a traffic jam out in front of that café; cats and their kittens* blocked up the side-walk, hypnotized** by the walloping blues that came throbbing out of Bessie’s throat. She was putting away Young Woman Blues, one of her greatest numbers, when we eased in …

Dave and I just melted together in the blaze of Bessie’s singing; that wasn’t a voice she had, it was a flame-thrower licking out across the room.

Bessie was a real woman, all woman, all the femaleness the world ever saw in one sweet package. She was tall and brown-skinned, with great big dimples creasing her cheeks, dripping good looks – voluptuous, buxom and massive but stately too, shapely as an hour-glass, with a high-voltage magnet for a personality. When she was in a room her vitality flowed out like a cloud and stuffed the air till the walls bulged. She didn’t have any mannerisms, she never needed any twirls and twitches to send those golden notes of hers on their sunshiny way. She just stood there and sang, letting the love and the laughter run out of her, and the heaving sadness too; she felt everything and swayed just a little with the glory of being alive and feeling, and once in a while, with a grace that made you want to laugh and cry all at once, she made an eloquent little gesture with her hand. Bessie maybe never practised her scales in any conservatory of music, wrestling with arpeggios***, but she was an artist right down to her fingertips – a very great artist, born with silver strings for vocal cords and a foaming, churning soul to keep them a-quiver.

Her style was so individual that nobody else ever grasped it. The way she let her rich music tumble out was a perfect example of improvisation – the melody meant nothing to her, she made up her own melody to fit the poetry of her story, phrasing all around the original tune if it wasn’t just right, making the vowels come out just the right length, dropping the consonants that might trip up her story, putting just enough emphasis on each syllable to make you really know what she was getting at. She lived every song she sang; she was just telling you how it happened to her.

… one day in 1937 she was in an automobile crash … and her arm was almost torn out of its socket. They brought her to the hospital but it seemed like the people there didn’t care for the color**** of her skin. The car turned around and drove away, with Bessie’s blood dripping on the floor-mat. She was finally admitted to another hospital … but she had lost so much blood that they couldn’t operate on her, and a little later she died.

* cats and their kittens – jazz slang for men and women
** hypnotized – American spelling of hypnotised
*** arpeggios – a sequence of musical notes
**** color – American spelling of colour
Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A and **ONE** in Section B.
- You should spend about 1 hour and 15 minutes on Section A.
- You should spend about 45 minutes on Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided  
  – **there may be more space than you need.**

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 96.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets  
  – **use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.**
- Questions labelled with an **asterisk** (*) are ones where the quality of your written communication will be assessed  
  – **you should take particular care on these questions with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression.**

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.
SECTION A: Reading

Read Text 1. Then answer Questions 1–3.

You should spend about 1 hour 15 minutes on the WHOLE of Section A (Questions 1–7).

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1 From lines 5-8, identify two places where Milton made public appearances.
1 .......................................................................................................................... 

2 ..........................................................................................................................

(Total for Question 1 = 2 marks)

2 Give one example from lines 9-12 of how the writer uses language to show the style of Milton’s records.

Example from the text: (1)

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How the writer uses language: (1)

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(Total for Question 2 = 2 marks)
3 Analyse how the writer uses language and structure to interest and engage the reader.

Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

(15)
Read Text 2. Then answer Questions 4–6.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

4 From lines 1–5, identify one thing we are told about Bessie's voice.

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(Total for Question 4 = 1 mark)

5 She was tall and brown-skinned, with great big dimples creasing her cheeks, dripping good looks…

In this example, from lines 9–10, how does the writer use language to show Bessie's appearance?

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(Total for Question 5 = 1 mark)
In this extract, the writer attempts to show his admiration for Bessie Smith.

Evaluate how successfully this is achieved.

Support your views with detailed reference to the text.
Question 7 is about Text 1 and Text 2. Answer both parts of the question. Refer to both texts in your answers.

Write your answer in the space provided.

7 (a) The two texts show singers who are memorable.

What similarities do Milton and Bessie share in these extracts?

Use evidence from both texts to support your answer. (6)
(b) Compare how the writers of Text 1 and Text 2 present ideas and perspectives about singers.

Support your answer with detailed references to the texts.
SECTION B: Transactional Writing

Answer ONE question. You should spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write your answer in the space provided.

EITHER

*8 Write an article for a newspaper with the title ‘How Music Affects People’.

You could write about:

- what types of music people listen to
- where people listen to music
- how music makes people feel

as well as any other ideas you might have.

*Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

(Total for Question 8 = 40 marks)

OR

*9 Write a review of a band, concert, film or book that you feel strongly about.

In your review, you could include:

- details of the band, concert, film or book
- the strengths and weaknesses of the band, concert, film or book
- reasons why you feel so strongly

as well as any other ideas you might have.

*Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

(Total for Question 9 = 40 marks)
Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☑. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☑.

Chosen question number:  Question 8 ☐  Question 9 ☐

Write your answer to Section B here:

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