

Reading...

Amy Liptrot's *The Outrun*

At National 5

Critical Essay

WARNING! When answering on *The Outrun* at National 5, candidates must be clear that the question they choose must refer to **non-fiction**.

The following questions are drawn from the Prose section of past **SQA National 5 English** papers:

- Choose a novel or short story or a work of non-fiction which explores a theme that interests you [...]. (2019)
- Choose a novel or short story or work of non-fiction which has a key moment [...]. (2016)
- Choose a novel or a short story or a work of non-fiction which has a memorable character/person, place or event [...]. (2017)
- Choose a novel or short story or a work of non-fiction which deals with a significant event or experience or issue [...]. (2018)

The table below maps *The Outrun* on to the areas covered by the questions.

Theme/Issue	Addiction or mental ill-health
Experience	The memoir documents the writer's journey home (from London to Orkney) to overcome her addiction to alcohol
Memorable Person	The writer/speaker
Key Moment	End of chapter 7, writer reaches conclusion that her life is out of control, that things have to change and that this is her last chance to rehabilitate herself.

Place	The islands of Orkney: the writer explores every aspect of the land mass (history, culture, people, soil, cliffs, sea, sky, planets etc.)
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Spoken Language

Use Amy Liptrot's *The Outrun* as the stimulus for a Group Discussion at National 5. Conduct a group discussion or roundtable exercise on one of the following tasks:

Conduct a discussion on one chapter of the book that the group found particularly interesting.

Your discussion should summarise what happens in this chapter, give reasons why group members found it interesting and reflect upon any issues or themes that arose in this section.

Before starting the discussion, your group should settle on four key topics/questions to tackle. You should make sure that you plan appropriately and have enough material to discuss. You can have notes to hand as you talk.

OR

What do you know about the social history of your area?

The writer describes Orcadian myths and legends throughout the text.

- a.) Do you know any local myths/legends related to where you are from?
- b.) A lot of people use myths and legends to rationalise the world they live in. What is your attitude towards those who do that?

Conduct a 15-minute discussion.

OR

This book is a very honest exploration of personal addiction.

- a.) How do you feel the writer dealt with her own addictions?
- b.) Did anything surprise you about her journey to recovery?
- c.) How accessible do you think help is for addicts?

Take part in a group discussion or roundtable in which you consider the theme of addiction.

Reading...

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At Higher

Critical Essay

Below you will find a list of questions extracted from the PROSE NON-FICTION sections of SQA Past Papers. Each listed question works perfectly with The Outrun.

1. Choose a non-fiction text which presents a distinctive account of a place or an event or a person... **(2019)**
2. Choose a non-fiction text which has an emotional and/or intellectual appeal for the reader... **(2018)**
3. Choose a non-fiction text which has made you think differently about an important moral or social issue... **(2018)**
4. Choose a non-fiction text which provides fresh understanding of a group of people, or a way of life, or an important figure... **(2018)**
5. Choose a non-fiction text which gives you a detailed insight into a place or a person's life... **(2017)**
6. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer engages your interest in a place or culture... **(2016)**
7. Choose a non-fiction text in which the writer describes a traumatic or rewarding experience... **(2016)**
8. Choose a non-fiction text which is structured in a particularly effective way... **(2015)**
9. Choose a non-fiction text which made you consider your views about a social or political or ethical issue... **(2015)**

Reading...

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At Advanced Higher

Textual Analysis: Prose Non-fiction

1. Read Chapter 16 of *The Outrun* ('Papay'), then attempt the following question:

Discuss the writer's exploration of history (both local and personal) in this extract. (20 marks)

2. Read Chapter 28 of *The Outrun* ('Renewables'), then attempt the following question:

Discuss the writer's thematic treatment of renewal and regeneration in this extract. (20 marks)

3. Read Chapter 4 of *The Outrun* ('London Fields'), then attempt the following question.:

Prepare a critical response to this extract. In your response you should consider the writer's use of

- *Symbolism*
- *Structure*
- *Imagery*
- *Any other feature you find interesting*

Dissertations

The texts listed below are Scottish texts that would work really well with *The Outrun* as a Dissertation comparative study. This is not an exhaustive list, but it is a good starting point.

Text	Author	Links to the Outrun
<i>Motherwell</i>	Deborah Orr	<i>Complicated relationship between speaker and mother/place</i>
<i>A Lie About My Father</i>	John Burnside	<i>Complicated relationship between speaker and father</i>
<i>This is Not About Me</i>	Janice Galloway	<i>Complicated relationships with sister and mother</i>
<i>Red Dust Road</i>	Jackie Kay	<i>Complicated relationship with birth father</i>

English is Lit!