strong sense of the control and fear that was experienced by Satrapi in the world that Iran became.

Both texts show that experience of the world is not always easy. The consequences can be devastating and in both cases there is a resultant loss of innocence.

Notes from the Marking Centre

Question 9 – Elective 2 – Into the World
In stronger responses, candidates effectively constructed a thesis that clearly addressed the question and articulated their understanding of the concepts of the elective. They frequently used a confident personal voice. These responses drew upon a substantial related text and often presented a holistic discussion based upon judiciously selected evidence from the prescribed, and one other, related text.

Weaker responses sometimes engaged with the concept of the elective, but were often a superficial or literal retelling of the texts, or assertions without evidence. Many related texts were tenuously linked to the prescribed text or the concept of ‘into the world’. Related material for these candidates was often simplistic. Weaker responses did not substantiate their discussion with appropriate textual reference or technical discussion.

Exercise
Understanding the Notes from the Marking Centre
1. Why kind of thesis do you need to construct? Give an example.
2. Why do you think a substantial related text is preferred?
3. What is a “conceptual level”?
4. Why is “retelling” a problem?
5. What kind of related material do you need and why?
6. What do you need to support your discussion?

2010 Paper 2 Section III Module C – Elective 2: Into the World

‘The experience of moving into the world can challenge individuals’ attitudes and beliefs.’
Discuss this view with reference to your prescribed text and at least ONE other related text of your own choosing.

Sample response: Prose fiction

Prescribed text: The Story of Tom Brennan, J.C. Burke, 2006
Related text: ‘Motherly Love’, Vision Australia (website)

In every life there are critical moments when people have to move from one world to another. Any move into the world challenges long-held attitudes and beliefs, but when there has been no choice those challenges can appear to be even greater. Two texts that explore this notion are The Story of Tom Brennan by J.C. Burke and the client story, ‘Motherly Love’, on the Vision Australia website.
Sometimes events in our lives do not go as we expect and this leads us into new worlds. This is what happened to Tom Brennan and to Merryn Hawkins. Tom Brennan lived in a world filled with rugby, supported by his family and admired in the town. His life underwent a great change when his brother Daniel was caught in a drink-driving incident that led to the death of two friends and the paralysis of his cousin Tim. When the family was forced to move on, Tom had to struggle with his emotions, but found great courage in the end, realising that the world he had left was not as perfect as he had thought. The same sudden change occurred in the life of Merryn Hawkins when she realised that her daughter Gabbi was legally blind from birth. Like Tom she had to find an inner strength but also like Tom she had to reassess her life.

J.C. Burke keeps us in suspense in her novel about Tom, not giving us the full story until we know Tom better, so we share the challenges he faces in his new world. The Prologue starts with a time and a date when “my father, Joseph Brennan, closed the door for the last time”, emphasising the impact of the forced move of the family. Their new home is in their grandmother’s house, filled with paintings of saints and suggestions of sin. Daniel is clearly the source of the problem but the author reveals this slowly, keeping us wanting to know more.

Everyone deals with the grief of Daniel’s crime in different ways. We see just what an impact one member of the family can make on the others. Mrs Brennan becomes lost in her depression, falling so deep that her son Tom becomes embarrassed by how she smells. Grandmother prays for them all. Dad and Kylie seem able to cope but as the plot progresses we see that each feels the grief in their own way and they blame themselves. Even Uncle Brendan who appears to be so strong is found crying, “his chest heaving with his sobs” as he drinks gin and listens to the Elton John song, ‘Daniel’. This is a first person account told from the point of view of a loving brother who is confused but also sees his whole family suffering.

The real-life testimonial of Merryn Hawkins and her daughter is written in the third person, but through the quoted statements of Merryn Hawkins we are able to see her personal response to the new world of blindness that her daughter had. It reads like an article with short paragraphs, and a picture of the mother and daughter and can be located by looking under the heading “client stories” on the top bar of the home page. An emotional short sentence starts the article: “Gabbi gives her mother a hug”, showing the importance of family love in times of trouble.

Merryn’s occupation with Vision Australia and her personal connection to blindness through her daughter are explained. Merryn is described as being “passionate about creating a better future for people who are blind or have low vision”. The whole article continues by showing a very positive attitude on the part of Gabbi who overcomes challenges using “her imagination and ‘go-for it’ attitude”. Rather than being threatened by moving into the world, her strong belief in herself should help her to find her dreams of being an author or a counsellor. In doing this she is confirming the work of Vision Australia, a group that acts as a support for people with visual disability. The purpose of the website is to give
information, but more importantly it is also to show the positive real life stories of people who have met the challenge of disability.

The novel *The Story of Tom Brennan* can be seen to have the same purpose: to encourage young people to consider their options and to make the right decisions. It shows a young boy who has two pathways. He can be lost in the bad experience around him and be pushed “back into the big black hole” or he can emerge stronger and find the strength to overcome his challenges. He learns to make new friends and he finds through their support that he can manage. His intense dislike for his grandmother grows into respect and he even makes her a chicken coop. Being removed from his old life he is able to look back and reassess what happened and he starts to realise that he has not been so happy. When he is going to play a match with his old mates, he says that he didn’t know which ones “wanted to spit in my face”. Sometimes we need to be away from our lives and have our attitudes and beliefs challenged in order to be able to see clearly. Tom’s perfect brother was not so perfect and Tom and his sister Kylie only feel better when they speak about their guilt. Confession helps them to overcome the challenges they face and to accept their new world. Eventually Tom Brennan feels healed enough to fall in love.

Conclusion links both texts, while referring back to the question

One text may be fictional and the other may be real life but in both cases we see that moving into a new world can challenge attitudes and beliefs. Both texts show the power of family love and a positive attitude in overcoming challenges to the individual.

**Follow up**

Look up the Notes from the Marking Centre and the Marking Guidelines for the 2010 Examination (on the Board of Studies website). Use these guidelines to identify what was valued and to assess the sample 2010 responses.