

SECTION A: Voices in 20th- and 21st century texts

Read Text A on pages 4–5 and Text B on page 6 of the source booklet
before answering Question 1 in the space provided.

- 1 Compare the ways in which the writers create a sense of voice as they reflect upon Paris and its influence on the author Samuel Beckett, who lived there.

In your answer you must consider linguistic and literary features, drawing upon your knowledge of genre conventions and context.

(25) 7 Q01

PLAN

① different forms create different voices

The Irish Times - sophisticated

Travelogue - personal, controversial
depending on experience

② ~~the~~ Calder - supportive, friend of Beckett.

Theroux - more honest? modern
different



In the two extracts, given, different voices have been created ~~to~~ due to the form of the text. In 'Paris, Beckett and Me', the form is an article which suggests sophisticated, cohesive writing. 'I would often spend whole nights with him in cafés, play chess and sipping beer.' The cliché image created by John Calder, expresses his knowledge ^{symbol} on Beckett as he knew him personally. By doing this, Calder ~~conveys a sense of voice which~~ justifies his article ^{which} ~~as~~ has an element of personality as Calder tries to portray to the audience what Beckett was like in Paris. Also, with the article being published in 'The Irish Times', an established newspaper, ~~Beckett~~ Calder had to make sure that the article would be produced and received by the audience well, meaning that his audience were likely fans of his work and/or Beckett. By doing this, Calder creates a sense of voice which is supportive for his late friend Beckett, ~~contrast to~~ contrasting to the travelogue, 'Riding the Iron Booster', Paul Theroux. In this extract, a more honest opinion is displayed. 'Beckett came here for pleasure?' The rhetorical question used by Theroux expresses his sarcastic nature.



and naivety to Beckett's life. The form being a travelogue, makes the text less structured and therefore, harder to understand. However, it means that Theroux was able to express his true opinions at the time which create a negative sense of voice towards Beckett and his reasoning behind spending so much time in Paris. Therefore, making Theroux's audience gain a potential ~~controversial~~ controversial opinion on him, especially if fans of Beckett read his work. This therefore, makes the two texts different in their sense of voice, mainly due to their form.

In the two texts, a contrasting sense of voice is created through their reflection on Paris and Beckett. In text A, a mature sense of voice is portrayed. ~~Beckett preferred to be in~~ 'Beckett preferred to spend his the Second World War with his friends in wartime Paris.' Calder's use of war references, ^{and} demonstrates his maturity, ~~knowledge of~~ knowledge of Beckett's life. Also, being published in 2013, could suggest Calder's age which would explain his mature, almost high register



style of writing. By stating this, the city of Paris clearly had an attractive quality to Beckett which is why he spent so much time there. ~~Calder~~ For an audience, especially people who had been to Paris, this would resonate with them either positively or negatively, depending on whether they liked Paris or not. Therefore, Calder has created a mature sense of voice by exploring the affect that Paris had on Beckett. However, in text B, a more modern, younger sense of voice is created. 'Then I was told ('funny enough')¹ ~~th~~ that Samuel Beckett lived in one of those blocks', the use of colloquial language highlights the modern and young sense of voice that Theroux has, however, it is also ~~he~~ one with knowledge as he knows who Beckett is. Theroux's opinion on Paris contrasts to Calder's as he speaks about it negatively, which suggests that Paris influenced Beckett oppositely to how Calder believes. 'seemed designed to encourage suicide.' The hyperbole used explores Theroux's opinion on Paris and suggests that Beckett's negative attitude to life ^{may have been} ~~was~~ influenced by this. By doing this, Theroux ^{has created} ~~is creating~~ an honest, modern view on



Paris and Beckett which creates his sense of
voice.

