

Paper Reference(s) 1EN0/01
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)

English Language
PAPER 1: Fiction and Imaginative Writing
Section A: Reading Text Insert

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Source Booklet

**DO NOT RETURN THIS BOOKLET
WITH THE QUESTION PAPER.**

ADVICE

**Read the text before answering the questions
in Section A of the Question Paper.**

Read the text below and answer Questions 1–4 on the Question Paper.

In this extract, Oliver is a little boy, being forced against his will to burgle a rich house in the middle of the night. The two robbers, Bill Sikes and Toby Crackit, have already walked Oliver a long way out of London and are waiting in a house before they set out on their robbery.

Oliver Twist: Charles Dickens

Sikes busied himself in fastening on Oliver's cape.

'Now then!' said Sikes, holding out his hand.

Oliver, who was completely stupefied* by the unwonted exercise, and the air, put his hand mechanically into that which Sikes extended for the purpose. 5

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

‘Take his other hand, Toby,’ said Sikes.

**The man went to the door, and returned 10
to announce that all was quiet. The
two robbers issued forth with Oliver
between them.**

**It was now intensely dark. The fog 15
was much heavier than it had been
in the early part of the night; and
the atmosphere was so damp, that,
although no rain fell, Oliver’s hair and
eyebrows, within a few minutes after
leaving the house, had become stiff 20
with the half-frozen moisture that was
floating about.**

**They crossed the bridge, and kept on
towards the lights which he had seen
before. They were at no great distance 25
off; and, as they walked pretty briskly,
they soon arrived at Chertsey.**

(continued on the next page)

**‘Slap through the town,’ whispered Sikes;
‘there’ll be nobody in the way, tonight, to
see us.’**

30

Toby acquiesced; and they hurried
through the main street of the little
town, which at that late hour was wholly
deserted. A dim light shone at intervals
from some bedroom window; and the
hoarse barking of dogs occasionally
broke the silence of the night. But there
was nobody abroad. They had cleared the
town, as the church-bell struck two.**

35

**Quickening their pace, they turned up
a road upon the left hand. After walking
about a quarter of a mile, they stopped
before a detached house surrounded by
a wall: to the top of which, Toby Crackit,
scarcely pausing to take breath, climbed
in a twinkling.**

40

45

**‘The boy next,’ said Toby. ‘Hoist him up;
I’ll catch hold of him.’**

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

Before Oliver had time to look round,
Sikes had caught him under the arms; 50
and in three or four seconds he and Toby
were lying on the grass on the other side.
Sikes followed directly. And they stole
cautiously towards the house.

And now, for the first time, Oliver, 55
well-nigh mad with grief and terror,
saw that housebreaking and robbery,
if not murder, were the objects of the
expedition. He clasped his hands
together, and involuntarily uttered a 60
subdued exclamation of horror. A mist
came before his eyes; the cold sweat
stood upon his ashy face; his limbs failed
him; and he sank upon his knees.

‘Get up!’ murmured Sikes, trembling with 65
rage, and drawing the pistol from his
pocket; ‘Get up, or I’ll strew your brains
upon the grass.’

‘Oh! for God’s sake let me go!’ cried
Oliver; ‘let me run away and die in the 70

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

fields. I will never come near London;
 never, never! Oh! pray have mercy on me,
 and do not make me steal. For the love of
 all the bright Angels that rest in Heaven,
 have mercy upon me!’

75

The man to whom this appeal was made,
 swore a dreadful oath, and had cocked
 the pistol***, when Toby, striking it from
 his grasp, placed his hand upon the boy’s
 mouth, and dragged him to the house.

80

‘Hush!’ cried the man. ‘Say another word,
 and I’ll do your business myself with a
 crack on the head. That makes no noise,
 and is quite as certain, and more genteel.
 Here, Bill, wrench the shutter open. He’s
 game enough now, I’ll engage. I’ve seen
 older hands of his age took the same
 way, for a minute or two, on a cold night.’

85

Sikes plied the crowbar vigorously, but
 with little noise. After some delay, and
 some assistance from Toby, the shutter
 to which he had referred, swung open on

90

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

its hinges. ‘Now listen, you young limb,’
 whispered Sikes, drawing a dark lantern
 from his pocket, and throwing the glare 95
 full on Oliver’s face; ‘I’m going to put
 you through there. Take this light; go
 softly up the steps straight afore you,
 and along the little hall, to the street
 door; unfasten it, and let us in.’ 100

stupefied* – unable to think or feel
 properly, often caused by extreme tiredness

acquiesced** – agreed to do something
 without objecting

cocked the pistol*** – got the gun ready
 to fire

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens, 1839