

**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.**

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**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.**

**(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.**

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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.

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‘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**