

Paper Reference(s) 1EN2/01
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)

English Language 2.0
PAPER 1: Non-Fiction Texts

Thursday 23 May 2024 – Morning

Time: 1 hour 55 minutes

Source Booklet

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

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the texts before answering the questions in Section A of the question paper.

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3–6 Text 1

7–10 Text 2

SECTION A

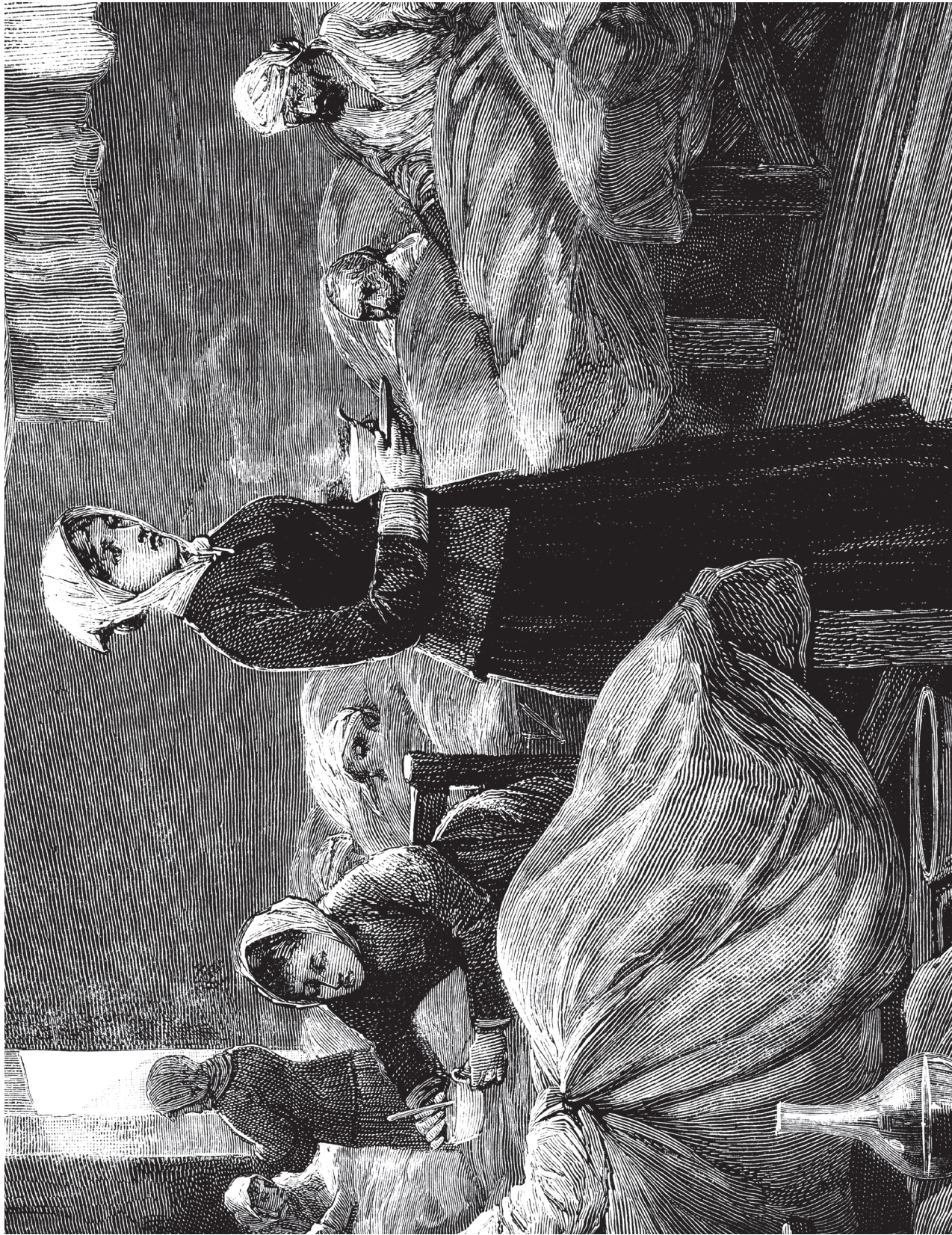
Reading

Read Text 1 below and then answer Questions 1–3 on the Question Paper.

This extract is adapted from a letter written in 1898 by a married woman to a newspaper. It is about whether married women should work.

(continued on the next page)

Text 1 continued.



(continued on the next page)

Turn over

Text 1 continued.

Should wives work?

GLOSSARY

¹**except** – exclude, leave out, disregard

²**maidens** – unmarried women

³**contemptible** – despicable, shameful, disgraceful

I wonder if you will allow an old wife and mother, born when the century was about half through, to have her modest say on the question of wives working.

My own old-fashioned prejudice is against the idea. I think that women are physically unfit to plunge into the dust and heat of the arena where men are fiercely striving, and that in the majority of cases they are also mentally unequal to long-continued strain. In saying this I should like to except¹ strong, healthy, sensible maidens². For them, a little insight into work and into the difficulties of earning money may be useful, even the adoption of a career—for instance, hospital nursing or other pursuits now open to my sex—may be advisable, provided it be given up on marriage.

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(continued on the next page)

Text 1 continued.

I do, however, recognise one case, where a woman 15
may strain every nerve and do almost impossibilities
for love's sake, that is, a widow with family to
bring up. Otherwise, let the husband work and provide
for his wife and children. He it is who should be the
breadwinner, not poor she, with her willing spirit but 20
weak frame. An able-bodied man who lets his wife
work is a contemptible³ being in my estimation.

Read Text 2 below and answer Questions 4–6 on the Question Paper.

In this extract adapted from a newspaper article written in 1835, the writer describes a visit to a coalmine with a friend.

GLOSSARY

¹obscenity – swear word

²beheld – saw

³abjectness – hopelessness, misery

⁴perishing – dying

(continued on the next page)

Text 2 continued.

Descent into a coalmine

We fixed ourselves in the basket, standing, with
our hands grasping the chain. The word was given,
and down we glided with a smooth and scarcely
perceptible motion through a duct about six feet in
diameter. As we descended all became darkness, the 5
noise over our heads grew gradually more indistinct,
till it died away, and a dreary silence ensued, broken
only occasionally by the grating of the basket against
the walls. At length, I heard the voices of men below
me—the basket stopped, and we soon found ourselves 10
on our feet at the bottom, 630 feet from the light—all
around was pitch dark, not a ray of light reaching the
bottom from the mouth of the shaft.

(continued on the next page)

Text 2 continued.

We proceeded through a very long passage cut
 through rock. Occasionally a light appeared in the 15
 distance before us, which did not dispel the darkness,
 but advanced like a meteor through the gloom,
 accompanied by a loud rumbling noise, the cause of
 which was not explained to the eye till we were called
 upon to make way for a horse, which passed by with 20
 its long line of baskets, and driven by a young girl,
 covered with filth, and uttering some low obscenity¹
 as she hurried by us. We were frequently interrupted
 in our march by the horses proceeding in this manner
 with their cargoes to the shaft, and always driven by 25
 girls, all of the same description, ragged and beastly
 in their appearance, and with a shameless indecency
 in their behaviour, which, awe-struck as one was by
 the gloom and loneliness around one, had something
 quite frightful in it, and gave the place the character of 30
 a hell.

(continued on the next page)

Text 2 continued.

One class of sufferers in the mine moved my companion more than any other, a number of children who attend at the doors to open them when the horses pass through, and who in this duty are compelled to linger through their lives, in silence, solitude, and darkness, for sixpence a day. When I first came to one of these doors, I saw it open without perceiving by what means, till, looking behind it, I beheld² a miserable little wretch standing without a light, silent and motionless, and resembling in the abjectness³ of its condition some reptile peculiar to the place, rather than a human creature. 35 40

Few of the children thus inhumanly sacrificed were more than eight years old, and several were considerably less, and had barely strength sufficient to perform the office that was required from them. In the winter-time they never see day-light except on a Sunday, for it has been discovered that they can serve for 13 hours a day without perishing⁴, and they are pitilessly compelled to such a term of solitary confinement, with as little consideration for the injury that they suffer, as is felt for the hinges and pulleys of the doors at which they attend. As soon as they rise from their beds they descend down the pit, and they are not relieved from their prison till, exhausted with watching and fatigue, they return to their beds again. 45 50 55

SOURCE INFORMATION:

Total text word count: 720 words

Text 1: extract taken from <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/BL/0001112/18980824/100/0007?browse=False>

Image: whitemay/Getty Images

Text 2: extract taken from <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/BL/0000447/18350625/025/0004?browse=False>