

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.**

ADVICE

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

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SECTION A

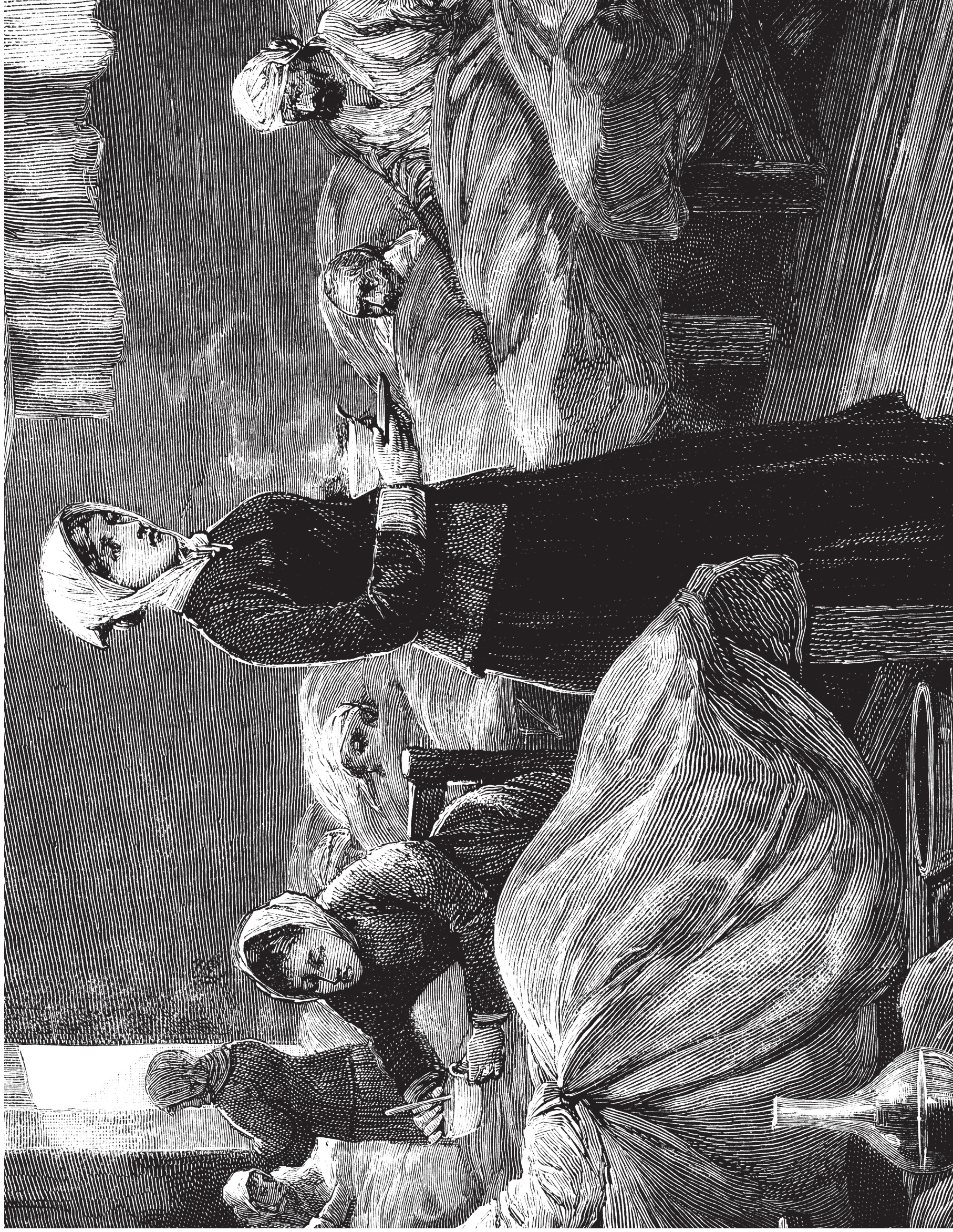
Reading

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

¹except – exclude, leave out, disregard

²maidens – unmarried women

³contemptible – 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. 5 10

I do, however, recognise one case, where a woman 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 weak frame. An able-bodied man who lets his wife work is a contemptible³ being in my estimation. 15 20

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.

Descent into a coalmine

GLOSSARY

¹**obscenity** – swear word

²**beheld** – saw

³**abjectness** – hopelessness, misery

⁴**perishing** – dying

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 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 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 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 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 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 a hell. 15 20 25

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. 30 35

(continued on the next page)

Text 2 continued.

Few of the children thus inhumanly sacrificed were more
than eight years old, and several were considerably less, 40
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 45
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 50
return to their beds again.

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>