

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 question in Section A of the question paper.

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3–7 Text 1

8–12 Text 2

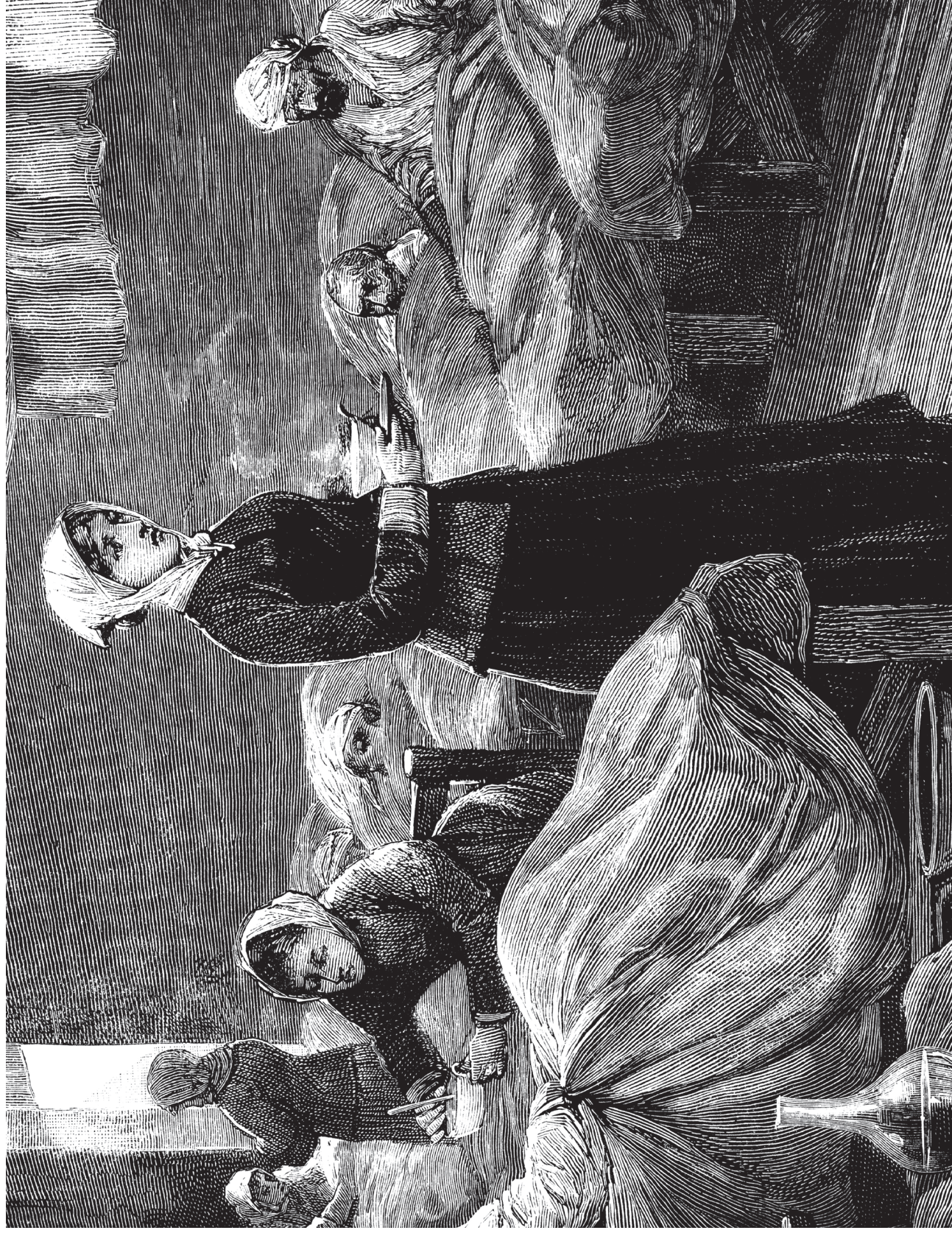
SECTION A

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.**

(continued on the next page)

Text 1 continued.

My own old-fashioned prejudice is 5
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 10
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 15
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.

(continued on the next page)

Text 1 continued.

**I do, however, recognise one case, where 20
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 25
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. 30**

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 5
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 10
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 15
around was pitch dark, not a ray of light
reaching the bottom from the mouth of
the shaft.**

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

Text 2 continued.

We proceeded through a very long
passage cut through rock. Occasionally 20
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 25
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 30
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, 35
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 40
gave the place the character of a hell.

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

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 45
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 50
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 55
peculiar to the place, rather than a
human creature.

(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, 60 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 65 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 70 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 75 till, exhausted with watching and fatigue, they 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>