

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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3–7 Text 1

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SECTION A

Reading

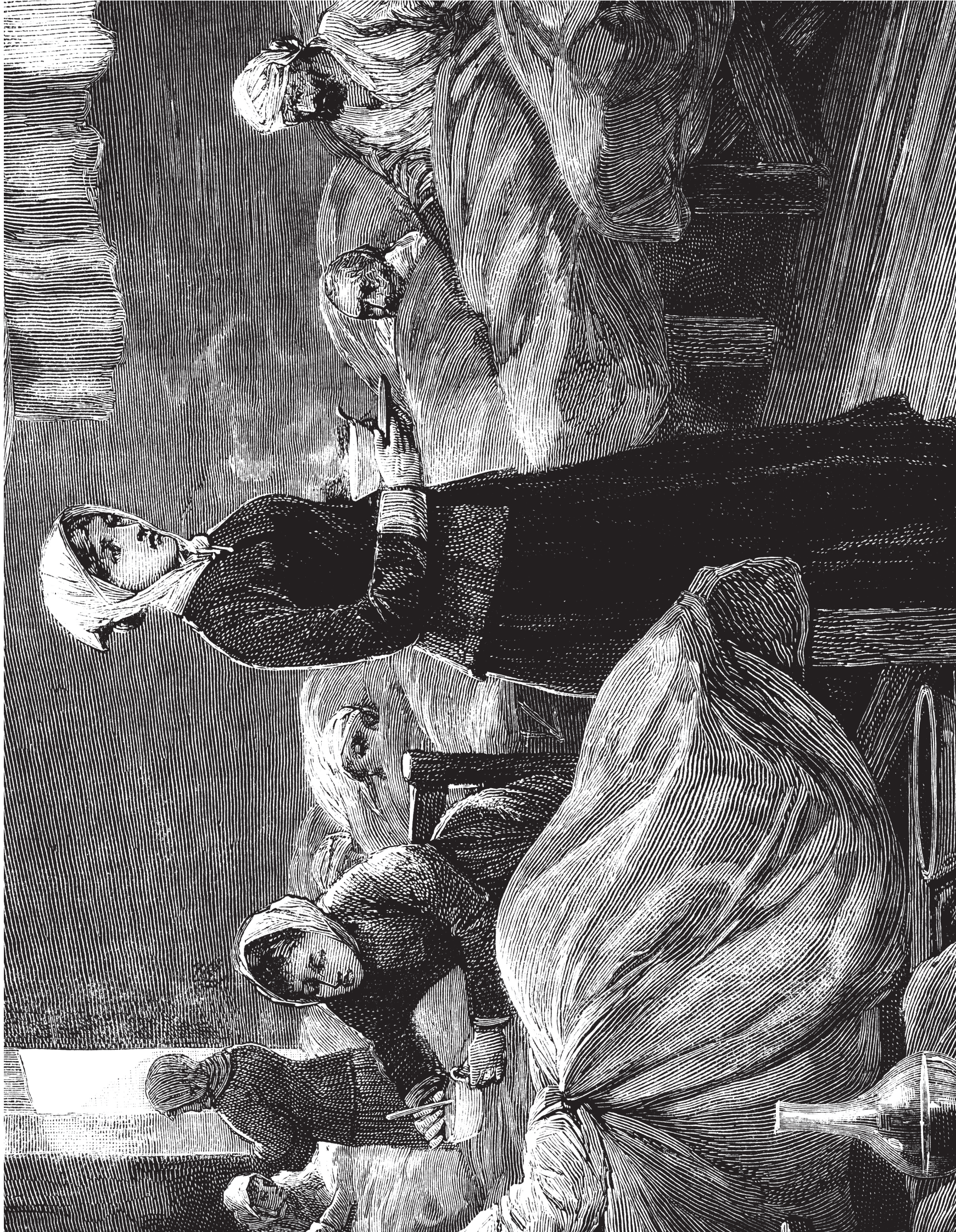
Read Text 1 below and then answer Questions 1–3 on the Question Paper.

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)

Turn over

Text 1 continued.



(continued on the next page)

Turn over

Text 1 continued.

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.**

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

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)

Turn over

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.

Descent into a coalmine

GLOSSARY

¹obscenity – swear word

²beheld – saw

³abjectness – hopelessness, misery

⁴perishing – dying

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

Text 2 continued.

**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 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.

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

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 and 70 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 75 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>