

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

**English Language 2.0**  
**PAPER 1: Non-Fiction Texts**

**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 answer Questions 1–3 on the Question Paper.**

**This extract is adapted from a letter written in 1843 by the novelist Charles Dickens to a female friend who was well-known for making charitable donations. It is about a visit he made to a Ragged School<sup>1</sup>.**

### **GLOSSARY**

**<sup>1</sup>Ragged School — a charitable organisation dedicated to the free education of extremely poor children in 19th-century Britain.**

**<sup>2</sup>lath — thin strips of wood used as a building material**

**(continued on the next page)**

**Turn over**

# The Ragged School

The image shows an illustration of a 'ragged school', with lots of children seated in one room and teachers talking to them.



(continued on the next page)

On Thursday night, I went to the Ragged School; and an awful sight it is.

The school is held in three most wretched rooms on the first floor of a rotten house: every plank, and timber, 5  
and brick, and lath<sup>2</sup>, and piece of plaster shakes as you walk. One room is devoted to the girls: two to the boys. The former are much the better-looking—I cannot say better dressed, for there is no 10  
such thing as dress among the seventy pupils; certainly not the elements of a whole suit of clothes, among them all. I have very seldom seen, in all the 15  
strange and dreadful things I have seen in London and elsewhere anything so shocking as the dire neglect of soul and body exhibited in these children. The teachers are extremely quiet, honest, 20  
good men. You may suppose they are, to be there at all. They try to reach the boys by kindness.

(continued on the next page)

Hardly any of the boys can read yet.  
For the teachers think it most important  
to impress them at first with some 25  
distinction between right and wrong,  
and I quite agree with them. The school  
is miserably poor, you may believe,  
and is almost entirely supported by the  
teachers themselves. 30

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

**In this extract adapted from a newspaper article written in 1859, the writer describes a Ragged School in Whitechapel in the East End of London.**

## **GLOSSARY**

**<sup>1</sup>lofty – high ceilinged/tall**

**<sup>2</sup>superintendent – teacher/manager**

**(continued on the next page)**



## A Visit to a Ragged School in Whitechapel

A few days ago, while walking along Whitechapel, as I passed by the end of a court or yard, the sound of a number of children's voices engaged in singing a hymn arrested my attention. Delighted with such a sound as this, proceeding from such a place, I determined to find from whence it proceeded. Upon going up the yard I soon found a large school, and asking a poor woman who was standing by what school it was, she replied, evidently astonished at my state of ignorance, "Why, don't you know? It's the George-yard Ragged School." After thanking her, the singing having ended, I went in and found myself in a large, lofty<sup>1</sup>, well-lighted and ventilated room.

5  
10  
15

(continued on the next page)

The walls were all hung with large  
 maps, diagrams, scripture prints,  
 lesson boards, etc. Sitting on forms 20  
 and at desks were scores and scores of  
 children, some decently and respectably  
 clothed, but the majority of them, I am  
 sorry to say, were in a state which is a  
 short remove from total nakedness—no 25  
 shoes, no stockings, etc., and what little  
 clothing they had seemed nothing but a  
 mass of shreds and patches, filling the  
 mind of the spectator with wonder how  
 they could possibly hold together on 30  
 their bodies.

The superintendent<sup>2</sup> was engaged with  
 his back towards me when I entered,  
 and did not see me taking my survey,  
 but soon a low cry of “teacher, teacher,” 35  
 drew his attention to myself standing  
 just inside the door. He immediately  
 came forward; and upon telling him what  
 had drawn me in, he welcomed me in  
 a most cordial manner, and invited me 40  
 to see the children go through some of

their exercises. I cannot go into detail  
out of respect for your space, but I was  
astonished at the amount of proficiency  
exhibited by the children—some of 45  
them mere infants. Maps, history, music,  
arithmetic (mental and otherwise),  
reading, writing, spelling, etc.

I cannot proceed with this account of my  
visit to the George-yard Ragged School 50  
and Church without expressing my  
warm admiration of the superintendent.  
The love he shows to the unfortunate  
children committed to his care is great;  
and they appear to love him equally. In 55  
fact, in the course of our conversation,  
he told me that in love for the children  
consisted his strength, and the means  
whereby he works.

(continued on the next page)

**“In fact, sir,” said he, “we take a boy, 60  
wild and entirely uncultivated as it were,  
from the gutters; now, that boy will not  
bear the restraint of the school, unless  
we speedily teach him that we love  
him, take an affectionate interest in his 65  
welfare, and that it is for his own benefit  
to remain.**

**“The last boy that left me,” continued he,  
“I am glad to say, has got an excellent  
situation in a very large office, at seven 70  
shillings per week; and I have just  
received, with very great pleasure, the  
highest account of him. This, alone,  
sir,” said he, “is a great reward for all  
our care”. 75**

## **SOURCE INFORMATION**

**Total text word count: 707 words**

**Text 1: extract taken from ‘The Selected Letters of Charles Dickens’ ed Jenny Hartley, Oxford University Press**

**Image: Heritage Image Partnership Ltd/  
Alamy Stock Photo**

**Text 2: extract taken from <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000442/18590702/004/0002>**