

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 School¹.

GLOSSARY

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

²lath — thin strips of wood used as a building material

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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.



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Turn over

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, and brick, and lath², 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 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 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, good men. You may suppose they are, to be there at all. They try to reach the boys by kindness.

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Hardly any of the boys can read yet.
For the teachers think it most important
to impress them at first with some
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.

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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

¹lofty – high ceilinged/tall

²superintendent – 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 5
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 10
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, 15
I went in and found myself in a large,
lofty¹, well-lighted and ventilated room.**

(continued on the next page)

The walls were all hung with large maps, diagrams, scripture prints, lesson boards, etc. Sitting on forms 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 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 their bodies. 20 25 30

The superintendent² 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,” 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 to see the children go through some of 35 40

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

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>