

English Language
PAPER 2: Contemporary Texts

Total Marks

Thursday 9 November 2023 – Morning

Time: 1 hour 55 minutes

In the boxes below, write your name, centre number and candidate number.

Surname					
Other names					
Centre Number					
Candidate Number					

YOU MUST HAVE

Source Booklet (enclosed)

YOU WILL BE GIVEN

Nil

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ALL questions in Section A and ONE in Section B.

You should spend about 1 hour 10 minutes on Section A.

You should spend about 45 minutes on Section B.

Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

Turn over

INFORMATION

The total mark for this paper is 80.

The marks for EACH question are shown in brackets – use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.

Questions labelled with an ASTERISK (*) are ones where the quality of your written communication will be assessed – you should take particular care on these questions with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression.

The marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar are clearly indicated.

ADVICE

Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.

Check your answers if you have time at the end.

SECTION A

Reading

**You should spend about
1 hour 10 minutes on this section.**

**Read Text 1 in the Source Booklet
provided and answer Questions 1–2.**

**Write your answers in the
spaces provided.**

- 1 From lines 22–34, identify ONE thing
Richard thought he might see at
the beach.**

(Total for Question 1 = 1 mark)

2 Read this extract.

I stood up cautiously, one foot an inch from the cliff, the other set back at a stabilising angle.

‘Are you jumping?’ called Etienne nervously.

‘Just taking a better look.’

An overwhelming sensation washed over me, almost boredom, a strange listlessness. I was suddenly sick of how difficult this journey had become. There was too much effort, too many shocks and dilemmas to dissect. And this sickness had an effect. For a vital few seconds it liberated me from a fear of consequences.

‘So jump,’ I heard my voice say.

(continued on the next page)

2 continued.

In the extract, how does the writer use language to show how Richard and Etienne feel about their situation?

**Use examples from the extract and relevant subject terminology.
(6 marks)**

Answer space continues on the next 4 pages.

Turn over

2 continued.

2 continued.

Turn over

2 continued.

Turn over

2 continued.

(Total for Question 2 = 6 marks)

Read Text 2 in the Source Booklet provided and answer Questions 3–4.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

3 Read this extract.

The atmosphere was electric; it was a cacophony of noise from the PA system¹, as well as cheers, shouts and applause from the crowd. The sound ricocheted around the domed, undulating² ceilings of the London Aquatics Centre. It was almost deafening.

I inhaled slowly and steadily. The air was thick with the sticky warmth of chlorine and the charged crowd. I needed to focus hard.

My heart pounded to the tips of my fingers.

(continued on the next page)

3 continued.

From the extract, identify ONE thing that suggests that this is an exciting moment.

(Total for Question 3 = 1 mark)

Turn over

4 The writer describes the moments before his dive.

How does the writer try to interest and engage the reader?

You should include:

- **the writer's use of language**
- **the writer's use of structure**
- **the effect on the reader.**

**Use examples from the whole text and relevant subject terminology.
(10 marks)**

Answer space continues on the next 11 pages.

Turn over

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(Total for Question 4 = 10 marks)

Questions 5–6 are on both Text 1 and Text 2.

Remember to refer to both texts in your answers.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

- 5 Text 1 and Text 2 both describe people dealing with a challenging situation. The experiences are different, but they share similarities.**

**Write a summary giving THREE separate ways the experiences are similar. Support EACH SEPARATE SIMILARITY with evidence from BOTH texts.
(6 marks)**

Answer space continues on the next 5 pages.

5 continued.

5 continued.

5 continued.

5 continued.

5 continued.

(Total for Question 5 = 6 marks)

6 Compare the writers' ideas and perspectives about preparing for an important moment. You should compare:

- the main ideas
- the points of view
- the presentation of these ideas and views.

**Use examples from both texts to support your comparison.
(16 marks)**

Answer space continues on the next 12 pages.

Turn over

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Turn over

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[illegible]

(Total for Question 6 = 16 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 40 MARKS

Turn over

SECTION B

Writing

**Answer ONE question in this section.
You should spend about 45 minutes
on this section.**

**Write your answer in the
space provided.**

EITHER

***7 Write an imaginative piece that starts
with the line:**

**‘This place was like nowhere I had
seen before.’**

***Your response will be marked
for the accurate and appropriate
use of vocabulary, spelling,
punctuation and grammar.**

(Total for Question 7 = 40 marks)

Turn over

OR

- *8 Write about a time when you, or someone you know, had to be brave.**

Your response could be real or imagined.

You MAY wish to base your response on one of the images in the Source Booklet or use any ideas of your own.

***Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.**

(Total for Question 8 = 40 marks)

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number:

Question 7 ☐

Question 8 ☐

Plan your answer to Section B here:

Write your answer to Section B here:

Answer space continues on the next 17 pages.

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Section B continued.

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 40 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS
END OF PAPER