



**General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced**

391/01

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ELang1: Using Language**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 January 2008  
(1½ Hours)

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **both parts** of the question: **(a)** and **(b)**.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Marks for this unit are divided equally between **(a)** and **(b)**.

In this unit you will be assessed on your ability to:

- communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to the study of language, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression;
- demonstrate expertise and accuracy in writing for a variety of specific purposes and audiences, drawing on knowledge of linguistic features to explain and comment on choices made;
- know and use key features of frameworks for the systematic study of spoken and written English.

Remember that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Complete tasks (a) and (b). Each counts for half of the total marks for this unit.

The subject of this unit is *Tornadoes*.

Read the following news report and notes on tornadoes on pages 3 and 4.  
Then, using this information, complete the two tasks which follow.

### Tasks

- (a) On 7th December 2006 a tornado ripped through several streets in north-west London. Imagine that you are a television news reporter for an early evening national news programme. You have been asked to cover this story by providing a special report which will be broadcast from the scene.

**Write the text of the spoken report you will give on the tornado for the early evening national news report. Use at least 300 words.**

- You must use conventional spelling and punctuation and avoid transcript conventions.
- Make use of relevant information from pages 3 and 4.
- You may wish to use an anchorman (the presenter in the studio who links the news items together).
- You should include at least one interview. This could be with a person of your choice: weather experts, local people or eye witness accounts, for example.
- Give information about tornadoes as well as reporting on the actual events of the day.
- Use your own words as far as possible.
- Remember to make your language choices appropriate for the style of a national television news report.

[50%]

- (b) **When you have completed task (a), write about the language you have used (approximately 400 words).**

Drawing on your knowledge of language frameworks and linguistic features, you should explain and comment on the language choices you have made. Comment particularly on your use of language features and how you have made your choices of language appropriate for a spoken television news report.

[50%]

## **Six hurt as tornado hits London**

**Many people are spending the night in a respite centre after a tornado ripped through several streets in north-west London.**

Up to 150 houses and many cars were damaged when the freak weather hit the Kensal Rise area.

One man in his 50s suffered a serious head injury and five were treated for minor injuries and shock.

Fire services have sealed six roads in a zone covering a quarter of a square mile and searched at least 100 homes.

Fire crews were called at about 1100 GMT on Thursday to Chamberlayne Road and surrounding streets, amid reports of collapsed scaffolding and damage to buildings.

Witnesses said there was heavy rain and sleet, then debris flying through the air.

Resident Colin Brewer said: "It was really, really incredible. All of a sudden I saw a swirl starting to form and then, it was amazing, but it then touched land. I then saw clumps of all sorts of things flying into the air. It went from exciting to terrifying."

Local resident Daniel Bidgood said: "I was in my living room and I heard a big crack of lightning and thunder, then as I went to the window I heard a sound which was like standing behind a jetliner. I could see a huge cloud rolling up the street, making this tremendous sound. I went to try to take a picture of it but a shower of debris smashed all the windows of my house."

He reported seeing trees ripped up from the roots, front doors missing, windows smashed and people being hit on the head by flying objects.

Dave Bonner, of London Fire Brigade, said one house had its roof completely removed while another had an exterior wall demolished.

Residents returning from work were told to report to the Church of the Transfiguration hall in Chamberlayne Road where they would be met by police and local authority representatives.

Brent Council has set up a respite centre at the nearby Legion Hall on Albert Road for residents who have been made temporarily homeless.

A council spokeswoman said about 70 people are at the hall but they are preparing to help about 150.

The UK experiences an estimated 50 tornadoes on land each year, putting it top of the European league.

The BBC Weather Centre said the tornado lasted less than a minute.

"To see a tornado is not that unusual - but the magnitude of the damage due to the one in north-west London is," said BBC meteorologist Susan Powell.

She said the tornado formed due to a lot of energy in the air across the UK, producing widespread heavy thunderstorms with gusty winds.

"However, in the case of the shower in London, the massive up and down draughts came into phase, spiralling and forming a tornado," she said.

The Association of British Insurers said initial estimates suggested damage would be in the millions of pounds rather than tens of millions as seen in the Birmingham tornado in 2005.

The last tornado which caused significant damage in London was in December 1954, in west London, in which six people were hurt and the roof of Gunnersbury London Underground station was ripped off.

*Reproduced from Wikipedia*

A **tornado** is a violently rotating column of air which is in contact with both a cumulonimbus (or, in rare cases, cumulus) cloud base and the surface of the earth. Tornadoes can come in many shapes, but are typically in the form of a visible condensation funnel, with the narrow end touching the earth. Often, a cloud of debris encircles the lower portion of the funnel.

Most have winds of 110 mph (175 km/h) or less, are approximately 250 feet (75 meters) across, and travel a few miles (several kilometers) before dissipating. However, some tornadoes can have winds of more than 300 mph (480 km/h), be more than a mile (1.6 km) across, and stay on the ground for dozens of miles (more than 100 kilometers).

They have been observed on every continent except Antarctica; however, a significant percentage of the world's tornadoes occur in the United States. This is mostly due to the unique geography of the country, which allows the conditions which breed strong, long-lived storms to occur many times a year. Other areas which commonly experience tornadoes include New Zealand, western and southeastern Australia, south-central Canada, northwestern Europe, Italy, south-central and eastern Asia, east-central South America, and Southern Africa.

*Reproduced from the Tornado Project website*

### **Safety Tips**

One of the most important things you can do to prevent being injured in a tornado is to be **ALERT** to the onset of severe weather. Most deaths and injuries happen to people who are unaware and uninformed. Young children or the mentally challenged may not recognize a dangerous situation. The ill, elderly, or invalid may not be able to reach shelter in time. Those who ignore the weather because of indifference or overconfidence may not perceive the danger. Stay aware, and you will stay alive!

Be alert to what is happening outside as well. Here are some of the things that people describe when they tell about a tornado experience:

- A sickly greenish or greenish black colour to the sky.
- If there is a watch or warning posted, then the fall of hail should be considered as a real danger sign.
- Hail can be common in some areas, however, and usually has no tornado activity along with it.
- A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.
- Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.
- A sound a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, but turning into a roar as it comes closer. The sound of a tornado has been likened to that of both railroad trains and jets.
- Debris dropping from the sky.
- An obvious "funnel-shaped" cloud that is rotating, or debris such as branches or leaves being pulled upwards, even if no funnel cloud is visible.

If you see a tornado and it is not moving to the right or to the left relative to trees or power poles in the distance, it may be moving towards you! Remember that although tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast, they also move towards the east, the southeast, the north, and even northwest.

Encourage your family members to plan for their own safety in many different locations. It is important to make decisions about the safest places well BEFORE you ever have to go to them.