

394/01

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ELang4: Demonstrating Expertise in Writing

P.M. THURSDAY 14 June 2007

(2 Hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question, completing all three tasks: **(a)**, **(b)** and **(c)**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Both questions carry equal marks.

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;
- apply and explore frameworks for the systematic study of language at different levels commenting on the usefulness of the approaches taken.

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

Answer **one** question only.

Either,

1. Answer tasks (a), (b) and (c).

Note that (a) and (b) each counts for a quarter of the marks, and (c) counts for half: you should divide your time accordingly.

Read Texts **X** and **Y** on pages 4 and 5, and then complete the **three** tasks which follow.

Texts **X** and **Y** provide information about the *Mary Celeste*, a two-masted ship (a brigantine) that in 1872 was found sailing aimlessly in the Atlantic Ocean, with no one on board. What happened to the crew who vanished and were never seen or found again, has remained one of the most famous and enduring mysteries of the sea.

TEXT X is a detailed account. **TEXT Y** consists of further notes.

Tasks

- (a) A publisher aims to publish a collection of narratives called: *Amazing Stories of the Sea*. You have been asked to write an account of the *Mary Celeste* for this collection, in the style of narrative fiction. **Write an extract from this story** that gives an account of what the boarding party find on the *Mary Celeste*. Your publisher is not too concerned with factual accuracy but wants the account to be exciting and gripping, but plausible, with a focus on aspects that are dramatic, strange or puzzling.
- Choose a suitable narrative viewpoint (first or third person).
 - You should use appropriate details selected from Texts X and Y, but you may use your imagination and elaborate on some of the details.
 - You do not have to include all the details given, and should not waste time on lengthy introductions or background information.
 - Use language appropriate for an account in the style of narrative fiction, with suitable literary features, and use your own words as far as possible.

Write the extract from the story in at least 200 words.

(25%)

- (b) You have been commissioned to write the script for a radio dramatisation of the mystery of the *Mary Celeste*. **Write an extract from this script** that deals with the inquiry in Gibraltar, in which the court officer, Mr. Frederick Solly Flood, turns the hearings from a simple salvage claim (where a finder's rights to the value of a ship and its cargo are decided) into almost a trial of the men of the *Dei Gratia*, whom he suspects of foul play. Alternatively, he suspects foul play on the *Mary Celeste* itself.

- You should use appropriate details and ideas from Texts X and Y, but you may make some additions of your own if you wish.
- Set the extract out as a script, with the names of speakers on the left. You may include a few directions appropriate to a radio dramatisation, but should concentrate mostly on dialogue.
- Aim at some aggressive and hostile questioning by Frederick Solly Flood of Captain Morehouse, and of the Chief Mate, Oliver Deveau. You may include the judge and others if you wish, but it would be sensible to avoid having too many speakers.
- You do not need an introduction for this extract, and you do not have to bring it to a conclusion.
- Use an appropriate style and tenor (register) for a radio script, and use your own words as far as possible.

Write the extract from the radio script in at least 200 words.

(25%)

- (c) **Analyse and comment on the main features of language and style** in the texts you have produced. You should use appropriate terminology and draw on your knowledge of linguistic features and frameworks to explain and comment on your language choices and features of appropriate style. Comment very briefly on any features of language in Text X that may have influenced you in any way.

Write at least 400 words.

(50%)

TEXT X

Mary Celeste

The ship and its desertion

The *Mary Celeste* was a 103-foot, 282-ton brigantine. Originally built as the *Amazon* in Nova Scotia in 1861, the ship seemingly had bad luck and, due to numerous negative occurrences, had changed hands several times. It became the *Mary Celeste* in 1869.

On November 7, 1872, under the command of Captain Benjamin Briggs, the ship picked up a cargo of American alcohol (for fortifying wine) in New York City and set sail for Genoa, Italy. In addition to the crew of seven, it carried two passengers: the Captain's wife, Sarah E. Briggs, and daughter Sophia Matilda.

On December 4, 1872, the *Mary Celeste* was sighted by the *Dei Gratia*, captained by a Captain Morehouse, who knew Captain Briggs. The *Dei Gratia* had left New York harbour only seven days after the *Mary Celeste*. *Dei Gratia's* crew observed her for two hours and concluded that she was drifting, though she was flying no distress signals. Oliver Deveau, the Chief Mate of the *Dei Gratia*, led a party in a small boat to board the *Mary Celeste*. He reported finding only one pump working, with a lot of water between decks and three and one-half feet of water in the hold. He reported that "the whole ship was a thoroughly wet mess". The ship seemed otherwise to be in good condition, but no one was aboard.

The forehatch and the lazarette (a store-room at the rear) were both open, the clock was not functioning and the compass was destroyed. The sextant and chronometer were missing, suggesting the ship had been deliberately abandoned. The only lifeboat appeared to have been intentionally launched rather than torn away. Other accounts claim the lifeboat was still on the ship.

The cargo of 1700 barrels of alcohol was intact, though when it was eventually unloaded in Genoa, nine barrels were noted as being empty. A six-month supply of food and water was aboard. All of the ship's papers except the captain's logbook were missing. The last log entry was dated November 24 and placed her 100 miles west of the Azores. The last entry on the ship's slate showed her as having reached the island of St Mary in the Azores on November 25th.

The crew of the *Dei Gratia* split in two to sail the *Mary Celeste* to Gibraltar where, during a hearing, the judge praised the crew of the *Dei Gratia* for their courage and skill. However, the admiralty court officer Frederick Solly Flood turned the hearings from a simple salvage claim into almost a trial of the men of the *Dei Gratia*, whom Flood suspected of foul play. In the end, the court did award prize money to the crew, but the sum was much less than it should have been, as "punishment" for wrongdoing which the court could not prove.

Speculation and fiction on the *Mary Celeste*

Dozens of theories have been proposed to explain the mystery of the vanished crew and passengers, ranging from the mundane to the fantastic. Some suggested there was a mutiny among the crew who murdered Briggs and his family, and then escaped in the lifeboat. However, Briggs was known as a very religious, just and fair man. He was not the kind of Captain to provoke his crew to mutiny. First Mate Albert Richardson had served in the American Civil War before going away to sea, and the rest of the crew also had excellent reputations. When all theories have been tabled, the answer to the mystery most

probably lies with the barrels of raw alcohol. Alcohol fumes were known to be volatile, even explosive. A strict New England Puritan, Briggs had never hauled such a dangerous cargo and did not trust it. Nine barrels leaking would build up a lethal mixture of fumes in the hold. Historian Conrad Byer believes that after a few calm days at sea, Captain Briggs ordered the hold to be opened. There was a violent rush of fumes and then steam. Captain Briggs believed the ship was about to explode and ordered everyone into the lifeboat. In his haste, he failed to properly secure the lifeboat to the ship with a strong towline. The wind picked up and blew the ship away from them. The occupants of the lifeboat either drowned or drifted out to sea to die of hunger, thirst and exposure.

Other, more extreme speculation is common. Some authors cite a connection with the strange forces said to exist in the so-called Bermuda Triangle, though the ship was far from it. Others posit the involvement of paranormal activity or abduction by UFOs, or a giant octopus snatching the crew one by one from the deck.

Reproduced from www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Celeste

TEXT Y

FURTHER NOTES

Only the second of the two pumps was used on the journey to Gibraltar.

One of the many theories that have attempted to explain the mystery was the suggestion that there was an elaborate insurance fraud between Morehouse and Briggs, to claim prize money or to cash in on insurance. In this case the crew of the *Mary Celeste*, along with the captain and his family, were taken on board the *Dei Gratia* and put ashore before the ship reached Gibraltar.

The alcohol in the 1700 barrels would have been extremely unpleasant to drink.

Details found in some of the more lurid accounts, most of them probably mythical:

Plates of warm food were found on board.

Mugs of still-warm tea were found on the galley table.

The table in the captain's cabin had been laid for breakfast, though it looked as if the meal had been abandoned half-way through.

One of the bowls contained porridge, and the top of a boiled egg had been sliced off.

An open bottle of cough medicine was found beside one plate, with the cork still beside it.

The aroma of fresh tobacco smoke lingered in the captain's cabin.

In the fo'c'sle the crew's sea-chests and clothing were dry and undisturbed.

The crew had left behind their oilskin boots and pipes.

A small table in the cabin contained a sewing machine, with a child's nightgown on it. Nearby were a thimble and cotton, and bottles of oil.

Gold locket, money and jewellery were still locked in the ship's safe.

A cutlass was found in one cabin, smeared with what appeared to be blood, but was almost certainly rust resulting from the blade being cleaned with lemon.

Or,

2. Answer tasks (a), (b) and (c).

Note that (a) and (b) each counts for a quarter of the marks, and (c) counts for half: you should divide your time accordingly.

*Read Texts X and Y on pages, 7, 8 and 9, and then complete the **three** tasks which follow.*

TEXTS X and **Y** both provide information about the Loch Ness Monster, sometimes called ‘Nessie’, a creature or group of creatures said to live in Loch Ness, a deep freshwater lake in northern Scotland. Whether ‘Nessie’ exists or is a myth remains one of the great unsolved mysteries of the world.

Tasks

- (a) There have been reports of sightings of a ‘monster’, very similar to ‘Nessie’, in another loch in northern Scotland – Loch Lochy, which is overlooked by the Corriegour Lodge Hotel. Imagine that you are a reporter for a local Scottish newspaper, and that the first sighting of this creature in Loch Lochy has just been made. You have been sent to report on the sighting for your paper. Your editor would like your report to be dramatic and sensational.

Write the report for your newspaper.

- Use appropriate ideas and details from the information provided in Texts X and Y. You may invent extra details of your own if you wish.
- You need to decide who has seen the ‘monster’: an individual, a family, several people?
- Make up a suitable headline and use typical features of newspaper journalism.
- Aim to convey the feelings, emotions, reactions, of those involved, as appropriate.
- Use an appropriate style and tenor (register) for a newspaper report, and use your own words as far as possible.

Write the newspaper report in at least 200 words.

(25%)

- (b) You have been asked to contribute a short article about the Loch Ness Monster for a new magazine which seeks to provide rational explanations for well known myths, hoaxes and strange phenomena. In your article you should consider some of the evidence for the supposed existence of the Loch Ness Monster, but should seek to show that the evidence is unreliable or false. You should also provide some possible explanation(s) for what might have led to belief in the existence of the monster, and should conclude that in your view the monster does not exist. **Write this article for the magazine.**

- You should use appropriate information, facts and details from Texts X and Y, but you are free to interpret and present these as you wish, and you may add some ideas of your own.
- You do not have to use all the information provided.
- Use an appropriate style and tenor (register) for a lively and interesting, but rational and clearly argued, article.
- Use your own words as far as possible.

Write the magazine article in at least 200 words.

(25%)

- (c) **Analyse and comment on the main features of language and style** in the texts you have produced. You should use appropriate terminology and draw on your knowledge of linguistic features and frameworks to explain and comment on your language choices and stylistic features. Comment very briefly on any language features in Texts X and/or Y that may have influenced you in any way.

Write at least 400 words.

(50%)

TEXT X

Loch Ness Monster, the Scottish legend

Loch Ness

Loch Ness is part of the Great Glen, an enormous fissure in the earth that just about splits Scotland into two. There is a series of lochs, rivers and canals that link the Atlantic with the North Sea. Loch Ness is the largest freshwater lake in Britain. It is twenty four miles long and a maximum of one and a half miles wide. Its maximum depth is around 750 feet and its average depth 450 feet. Because the waters are very cold, and also very cloudy, it is difficult to see underwater more than a few feet. So there is a lot of murky water in which Nessie could hide.

Monster legend

Said to have started with an account of Saint Columba, in 565 A.D., rescuing a swimmer from a lake creature. From then on stories of such a creature emerged periodically, but little was actually recorded until the 20th century.

It was only after 1933, when a new road was built along the lake shore and people were first able to visit the area in large numbers, that reports of sightings really took off.

Mackays and Campbell 1933

The Mackays owned a pub at Drumnadrochit, and on April 14th saw an “enormous animal” in the Loch. They told the man responsible for controlling salmon fishing in the Loch, Alex Campbell. Campbell, because of his job, spent a lot of time observing the Loch, and he saw Nessie a number of times. Campbell put it at 30 feet long and described it as having “a long, tapering neck, about 6 feet long, and a smallish head with a serpentine look about it, and a huge hump behind...”.

Hugh Gray photo 1933 (three humps in water)

The monster was first photographed by a Hugh Gray in 1933. Gray claimed: “I immediately got my camera ready and snapped the object which was then two to three feet above the surface of the water. I did not see any head, for what I took to be the front parts were under the water, but there was considerable movement from what seemed to be the tail.”

The Surgeon's photo (head and long neck rising up from water)

This photo was the most famous of them all, and was reputedly taken by a surgeon who was a pillar of the establishment, Colonel Robert Wilson.

Christian Spurling later admitted that he had taken part in a hoax. He made the confession on his death bed in 1993 when he was aged 90. His story was that he had helped make a model out of a toy submarine and photographed the model. Spurling claimed that his stepbrother, Ian Wetherell, and Ian's father, Marmaduke ("Duke") Wetherell, had been hired by the *Daily Mail* to find Nessie. They made their "monster" out of a 14 inch toy submarine and plastic wood. The photo was taken so seriously that they dared not own up to the hoax at the time.

Seen on land 1934

Arthur Grant, a veterinary student, saw the thing crossing the road as he rode along on his motorbike. His description matched that of a Plesiosaurus - small head, long neck, big body with flippers and a tail. The Plesiosaurus, a relative of the dinosaur, has been thought to be extinct for some 65 million years.

On moving film in 1960

An indistinct moving picture was taken by an aeronautical engineer, Tim Dinsdale, in 1960. The film may not have convinced the world, but Dinsdale gave up his job, and spent the next twenty years trying to prove that the monster(s) existed. He saw it twice more, but never got the photographic proof.

Sonar Sweeps in 1970s

The American Academy of Applied Science funded a search by Dr Robert Rines, using sonar and automatic cameras. In 1972 one of their cameras photographed, in the murk, what appeared to be a flipper about 6 feet long on just four frames of film.

Various sonar contacts followed, but it was not until 1975 that they got a vague, very blurred image of what might possibly have been the face.

Submarines

In more recent years mini submarines have tried to find Nessie, without success. In 1987, 20 cruisers methodically swept the Loch with sonar equipment bouncing sound waves from the surface down to the bottom and electronically recording any contacts. Many salmon were found, but no Nessie.

Conclusion

None of the evidence so far shows proof of Nessie's existence.

On the other hand, the waters are big enough and deep enough to hide such a creature.

And there again, it is impossible for one to exist, since there would have to be a breeding population of say at least 10 to 20.

Certainly no bones or bodies have been found, so the myth lives on.

Reproduced from www.scotland-calling.com/loch-ness-monster.htm

TEXT Y

The first modern sighting occurred on May 2, 1933. The newspaper Inverness Courier carried a story of Mr. and Mrs. John Mackay, who reportedly saw “an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface.” The report of the “monster” (a title chosen by the editor of the Courier) became a media sensation with London papers sending reporters to Scotland and a circus even offering a reward of £20,000 for capture of the monster. Later that year, A.H. Palmer, who allegedly witnessed Nessie on August 11, 1933, at 7 a.m., described the creature as having its head, which they saw from the front, set low in the water. Its mouth, which had a width of between twelve and eighteen inches (30-45 cm), was opening and closing; its maximum mouth aperture was estimated to be about six inches (15 cm).

The modern preoccupation with the Loch Ness Monster was aroused by a photograph allegedly taken by surgeon R.K. Wilson on April 19, 1934, which seemed to show a large creature with a long neck gliding through the water. Decades later, on March 12, 1994, Marmaduke Wetherell claimed to have faked the photo after being hired by the Daily Mail to track down Nessie (the photo had by that time been printed worldwide as “absolute evidence”). Wetherell also stated that Wilson did not take the photo, and his name was only used to give added credibility to the photo.

Most of the Nessie witnesses describe something with two humps, a tail, and a snakelike head. A V-shape was often mentioned, as well as a gaping red mouth and horns or antennae on the top of the creature’s head. Nessie’s movements have been studied, and the films and photos analysed to determine what Nessie might be, if she exists.

Reproduced from www.crystalinks.com/loch_ness.html